

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RAYMOND MILLER,
MANAGER OF THE BALTIMORE
ORIOLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose love for baseball inspires us all. "Rapid" Raymond Miller, the 13th manager of the Baltimore Orioles, has just completed his first full season managing. Mr. Miller is a man whose talent and great love of baseball span more than 30 years.

Throughout his entire career Mr. Miller has had many accomplishments. A minor league baseball pitcher for ten years, 18 years as a major league pitching coach and manager of the Minnesota Twins are all experiences that have qualified him to lead the Baltimore Orioles. His career has taken him from his beginnings with a minor league team in San Francisco to coaching a team that won the World Series.

Most of Mr. Miller's career has been spent as a pitching coach in which he has demonstrated tremendous success. Under his direction, not only did three players receive the Cy Young Award, but he also coached seven different 20-game winners. As the 1998 season came to a close, Mr. Miller demonstrated the same enthusiasm and promise as manager of the Baltimore Orioles that he has shown throughout his career.

Mr. Miller has made baseball fans from Ohio's 18th Congressional district very proud. With all of Mr. Miller's continued success, he has never forgotten the area from where he came. He and his wife continue to reside in New Athens, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating and wishing continued future success to a man I am proud to call my constituent, Mr. Raymond Miller.

RECOGNITION OF THE JEWISH
WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Department of California.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA, was organized in 1896 by veterans of the Civil War. They proudly hold the title of the oldest active national veterans' service organization in America. The Jewish War Veterans focus their attention on promoting veterans legislation, sponsoring projects on Jewish communal

concerns, support of Israel, advocacy for Soviet Jewry, and combating anti-Semitism.

The courageous men and women of the Department of California chapter will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary on November 15, 1998. As a former member of the U.S. Navy, I respect the role they have played in protecting our country and our constitution. They have given us a shining example in courage with their participation in the military during World War II. These soldiers served in the Armed Forces beyond their numerical proportion to the general population and received more than 52,000 awards, including the coveted Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank these Americans for their dedication and commitment to our nation. Their selfless acts of patriotism have helped spread the hope of freedom all over the world.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONG BEACH AIRPORT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, On November 26, 1923, a famed aviator and well-known community leader in Long Beach piloted his airplane to the very first landing at the brand-new Long Beach Airport. Today, I want to note not only that landing by Earl S. Daugherty but the fact that it launched the outstanding history of the Long Beach Airport. This year marks the airport's 75th year of service to Long Beach, southern California and the nation.

Earl Daugherty gained fame at the beginning of this century not only as an aviator but as a builder of aircraft, helping to lay the groundwork for southern California's vital aerospace industry. He also was the driving force behind the creation of the new airport for his hometown of Long Beach, where the only landing strip was the huge crescent-shaped beach. In 1923, the Long Beach City Council set aside 150 acres near the intersection of Spring and Cherry Streets to become Long Beach's airport.

Appropriately named Daugherty Field, the airport quickly proved an immediate success and the business of aviation began to flourish in Long Beach. Conditions at the airport were deemed perfect in the aviation community, making the facility known as one of the better year-round airports on the West Coast.

Within five years the airport had grown to 380 acres, with 16 large commercial hangars capable of accommodating more than 75 planes. By this point, several aircraft manufacturing businesses were established at the airport as well. During this time of growth the airport also saw the arrival of the United States Army and Navy at hangars and administrative offices provided by the city.

Two runways were added to the expanding airport in the mid 30's and soon the Civil Aeronautics Authority (known today as the Federal Aviation Administration) began operating a new air traffic control tower. In 1941, the current terminal building was added. The terminal building was designated a City of Long Beach Cultural Heritage Landmark in 1990. While the terminal has expanded over the years, excellent planning has retained its distinguishing architectural characteristics. In 1991, in honor of the building's 50th anniversary, the Long Beach Airport Historical Aviation Exhibit was opened. This important exhibit allows travelers to learn first hand the significance of air travel to the City of Long Beach.

Throughout the Second World War the field was focused on the war effort, expanding to 500 acres as many famous military units, including Captain Eddie Rickenbacher's 94th Pursuit Squadron, passed through on their way to Europe or the Pacific. Many longtime residents of Long Beach remember that the airport also served as home to the Air Transport Command's Ferrying Division, which included a quadron of 18 women pilots commanded by Barbara London, a preeminent Long Beach aviatrix, who still maintains business at the airport.

As the City of Long Beach continued to grow, so too did its airport. Today, the airport has grown to 1,166 acres with five runways. It has remained a key part of the aerospace industry ever since it attracted the attention of Donald Wills, who brought the McDonnell Douglas Corporation to Long Beach. Now part of the Boeing Corporation, plants at the airport turn out both commercial aircraft, such as the new 717, and the C-17 military transport and employ more than 20,000 workers. That makes Boeing the largest employer in Long Beach.

The Long Beach Airport is well situated between the major business and tourism areas of both Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Currently, there are more than 200 businesses located on airport property. As a leader in the aviation field, Long Beach boasts not only Boeing, but also Cessna Citation and Gulfstream Aerospace aircraft service centers.

The City of Long Beach owns and operates the airport today. The airport generously contributes time and resources to the Long Beach community through its sponsorship of schools and a volunteer tour program which brings in more than 3,000 children annually.

I congratulate the City of Long Beach on the continued success of the airport. The proud history of the Long Beach Airport demonstrates the foresight of Earl Daugherty and all of those who advanced the airport to its current respected status. I also commend the men and women who work on a daily basis to insure that the Long Beach Airport continues to offer the highest level of aviation safety and service that has become synonymous with this fine airport. I wish a happy 75th anniversary to the Long Beach Airport.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE FORTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOM-
ERY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Montgomery County Humane Society as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. As an animal lover and member of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I am so proud that this organization has provided compassionate animal welfare services to my district in Montgomery County, Maryland for so many years.

The Montgomery County Humane Society offers many critically important services to the county. Every year, the organization shelters over 10,500 animals and provides other assistance to 100,000 local citizens. The adoption program is nationally recognized with an impressive 69% adoption rate. The Montgomery County Humane Society also provides rescue services, low- and no-cost spaying and neutering, veterinary care, and critical humane education programs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congratulations and my warmest wishes to the Montgomery County Humane Society as they celebrate this important milestone. May they continue to grow and prosper.

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of legislation that was introduced by Congressman BILIRAKIS. This legislation is a necessary step to ensure that the most promising research receives the attention it deserves and that women receive the best screening and prevention methods available.

The Women's Health Research & Prevention Amendments of 1998 includes a section that will renew the CDC National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). More than 1 million women in this country who otherwise would not have the benefit of early cancer detection have been screened by this excellent program. Since the inception of the NBCCEDP, over 3,400 women have been diagnosed with cancer.

Breast and cervical cancer is devastating. One in eight women will develop breast cancer. Today, 2.6 million women are living with breast cancer. Every three minutes a woman is diagnosed and every 11 minutes a woman dies of breast cancer. Additionally, 13,700 women will be diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer. Deaths related to cervical cancer will total 3,900 this year. These startling statistics prove the importance of education, screening, early detection, and treatment.

In collaboration with Congressman BILIRAKIS, I drafted language to expand the services provided under this program. Women diagnosed with cancer through this program will now be able to rely on case managers to help them obtain the care they need and the care they deserve.

Case management in this CDC screening program is a critical component in most states' programs. My language would ensure that all women who are diagnosed case managers. Women need expert advice as they face the challenges posed by breast and cervical cancer. We are ensuring that today every woman has as much knowledge as possible to take control of her own life and obtain the care she needs to fight her cancer.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that I am pleased to be an original sponsor of Congressman BILIRAKIS' legislation. I thank him for accommodating my concerns and taking this important first step in addressing a critical problem facing underserved women in this nation.

There are thousands of medically underserved women who need access to critical health care. We must continue to look for long term solutions to the challenge of ensuring treatment for women served under this CDC-funded program. Case management is vitally important, however, as more women are screened and more cancers are diagnosed through this program, ensuring care for all who need it will place increasing stress on fragile and overburdened treatment systems.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that solves this problem for women screened through the CDC program. My bill, The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, H.R. 3779, will strengthen an already strong program by allowing case managers to serve those women diagnosed with cancer in a more timely manner. Currently, program managers must rely on outside funding sources for treatment—a process that requires time, labor, and resources. My bill gives states the option to help these women find the appropriate care through Medicaid. Additionally, my bill would free up resources, especially time and money, so that case managers can focus efforts on bringing more women into the program to take advantage of early cancer screening. My legislation will make the CDC screening program a complete success and should be enacted as well.

I am hopeful that Congress will take the necessary steps to make the program stronger through the passage of The Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments of 1998. Not only does this legislation reauthorize the NBCCEDP, but it also addresses many other quality programs in women's health at the NIH and the CDC. The legislation reauthorizes research on osteoporosis, cancer, heart attack, stroke, and aging at the NIH. Under the CDC, this bill also reauthorizes the National Center for Health Statistics, National Program of Cancer Registries, and the Centers for Research and Demonstrations of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor Mr. BILIRAKIS' legislation and do our share to ensure that women can be screened, treated, and cured of breast and cervical cancer.

INDIAN PARLIAMENT MEMBER
SAYS INDIA MAY SUFFER SAME
FATE AS SOVIET UNION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on August 7, India-West reported that Sharad Pawar, the

leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's Parliament, "expressed fear that the country might go the erstwhile Soviet Union way." Speaking at a function for the release of a book, Pawar said that although the Soviet Union was a nuclear power, it fell apart. He said that India's missile tests should not make it overconfident about keeping the country together.

The decline of India is inevitable, Mr. Speaker, for many of the same reasons that doomed the Soviet Union. The fact that a leader of the Indian Parliament is now taking note of it is a significant development.

India is a country made of many nations. It has 18 official languages. While it maintains a democratic form of government, the principles of democracy do not seem to apply where the minority nations are concerned. Tens of thousands of Sikhs, Christian Nagas, Kashmiri Muslims, Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others have been murdered by the government, with no apparent difference no matter which party is in power. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It looks like Mr. Pawar is on to something.

India's breakup is inevitable. I think I speak for most of us here when I say that I hope it happens in the peaceful way that the Soviet breakup did. Otherwise, there is the risk of another Yugoslavia in South Asia.

It has been American policy to preserve the current artificial stability in South Asia, but let us remember that we pursued a similar policy with regard to the Soviet empire and it collapsed anyway. The best way to preserve stability, democracy, prosperity, freedom, and peace in South Asia is to get on the side of the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations living under Indian rule.

I call on my colleagues to support an internationally supervised plebiscite to settle the future of Punjab, Khalistan by votes, the way that democracies decide issues. I also call on India to fulfill its obligation to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir as it promised the United Nations it would in 1948. By these steps, India will signal its commitment to a democratic solution rather than a Yugoslavian-style ethnic war. If it will not commit itself to take these steps, my colleagues can draw their own conclusions—and so can the people of the world. India must not try to settle this issue with more bullets, more genocide, and more nuclear warheads. The time has come to shine the light of freedom on all the people and nations of South Asia.

I thank Dr. Aulakh for bringing this very informative article to my attention and I am placing the article into the RECORD.

[From India-West, Aug. 7, 1998]

INDIA MAY SUFFER SOVIET FATE: PAWAR

PUNE (PTI).—The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Sharad Pawar Aug. 2 expressed the fear that the country might go the erstwhile Soviet Union way unless concerted efforts are taken to strengthen its economy in the wake of international reaction to its carrying out nuclear tests.

Pawar was speaking at a function to release a book, "Hiroshima," by noted Marathi writer D.B. Kher on the after effects of bomb explosion in Japan Aug. 6, 1945.

Pawar said though the erstwhile USSR was a nuclear power it collapsed, and added that India should not become over-confident after the Pokhran-II tests.

He said India should also be very vigilant as the economy of Pakistan was in the doldrums. It might take any dangerous step out of frustration. "We should not forget the fact that Pakistan had a history of aggression against India and hence we should be on guard," he said.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 20
YEARS OF SERVICE OF "A SAFE
PLACE"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you the exemplary work of a community service organization that addressed the need for a battered woman's program in the East Bay. "A Safe Place" was founded by four women who began providing crisis counseling, referral, and information services from an office in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Oakland. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, Ms. Carolyn Russell, the agency has grown with expanded programs and services. A Safe Place continues to be the only shelter exclusively for women and children who are homeless due to domestic violence.

A Safe Place exists to provide battered women and their children with transitional and supportive services to enable them to break the cycle of violence and regain a sense of self-esteem and personal power.

A Safe Place is a comprehensive and holistic approach to service the needs of battered women and children under the Domestic Violence Assistance program. This program consists of Emergency Shelter, Community Counseling, Community Education and Outreach. A Safe Place provides urgent safe shelter with counseling and support services; a community counseling and support group, and education on domestic violence. A special therapeutic service is directed to children who have witnessed domestic violence. The most recent program, and one of its greatest accomplishments, is a partnership with the Oakland Police Department in its implementation of a Domestic Violence Unit located in the police department with family violence coordinators.

Recognizing that domestic violence is a health issue and battered women are seen by medical providers, A Safe Place has developed partnerships with local hospitals to develop a Domestic Violence Medical Response Project, where staff can respond to battered women who are seen in local emergency rooms and clinics.

Domestic violence in teen relationships has increased. "Young People Taking Action" is a comprehensive teen violence prevention educational program, providing education on teen relationship violence, resources and alternatives for battered teens and criteria for establishing healthy relationships. This program is successfully implemented in the Oakland Unified School District.

A Safe Place has developed partnerships and joined forces with local agencies including law enforcement, the criminal justice system, medical community, social service agencies and with families and friends of battered women. The goal is to decrease domestic violence in our community to make it a safe place for our children to have a quality of life without fear and violence.

In 1996, California law enforcement agencies fielded nearly 228,000 domestic violence related calls. National crime surveys show that domestic violence directly affects our communities and families. A Safe Place provides a refuge and an important bridge for victims of domestic abuse to move to a position where they are better able to protect themselves. Part of this process draws in members of the larger community in forums to learn more about this epidemic.

On October 23, 1998, A Safe Place will celebrate its 20th year of providing quality services to families in the East Bay in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

I would like to extend my congratulations to A Safe Place for 20 years of community service and to the five women being honored for their longstanding work: Liz Hendrickson, Kim Kline, Cheri Pies, Nancy Brester, and civil rights attorney, Eva Jefferson-Paterson, for her legal work on behalf of A Safe Place with the Oakland Police Department. Together with A Safe Place and other partners to decrease domestic violence, I am proud to join with A Safe Place and other partners to decrease domestic violence by encouraging the continuation of similar programs of community service to improve the quality of life of all our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN A. ELROD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the contributions of a great public servant, Marilyn Elrod, on the occasion of her retirement from the staff of the House of Representatives. On August 31st, after more than 29 years on the Hill, Marilyn retired from her position as the minority staff director of the House National Security Committee. She will be greatly missed.

Marilyn, a native of Indiana, started her tenure on the Hill working for Representative Alard Lowenstein in June of 1969 after doing graduate work at American University. In November of 1970, Ronald V. Dellums of California was elected to Congress and before beginning his first term in the 91st Congress, Ron hired Marilyn as a military caseworker and legislative aide. From there she moved up to become the Legislative Director for Mr. Dellums, a position she held until 1983.

In 1983, Ron Dellums assumed the chair of the Military Installations and Facilities Subcommittee of the then Armed Services Committee. He quickly had Ms. Elrod appointed to the staff of the Subcommittee where she worked for the next six years. There, she helped him shift the focus of the Subcommittee toward quality of life issues for military personnel. Increased attention to housing, child development centers, and bringing installations into line with Environmental Protection Agency guidelines were all part of the new emphasis in military construction funding. Appropriately, this focus continues today.

Marilyn was assigned to be Mr. Dellums' staff person on the Research and Development Subcommittee in 1989 when he became chair of that Subcommittee. There she was a leader in the effort to have the Subcommittee make policy decisions about the military and

economic viability of future weapon systems early in the process—during the research and development phase—rather than in the procurement phase where such decisions had so often been made in the past. Earlier scrutiny where a wasteful or ineffective program could be stopped or realigned means greater savings to the taxpayer. In the same vein, she worked with Mr. Dellums to lead the fight against the wastefulness of "concurrent" research, development and procurement.

After ten years as Mr. Dellums' most trusted committee staff person, she made a bit of history. Ron Dellums was chosen by the Democratic Caucus to Chair the House Armed Services Committee—the first African American ever to do so—in January of 1993, and he immediately tapped Marilyn to be the first female staff director in the history of the Congress' four defense committees. He often told his colleagues how proud he was to have Marilyn with him to "break the glass ceiling." Two years later, Marilyn continued as staff director to the minority of the National Security Committee when the Republican party took control of the House. For the past several months, I have been proud to have her stay on as my staff director subsequent to the retirement of my good friend and colleague Ron Dellums. Though she was eligible to leave when Mr. Dellums did, I consider it a personal favor that she stayed on and helped ease the transition to a new staff director with her valuable advice and by sharing the benefit of her institutional memory.

As my colleagues and I know, having a staff person who is able to develop expertise quickly and thoroughly on a range of issues is extremely valuable. Ron Dellums knew that when Marilyn briefed him on any subject, he was getting the information and advice he needed to make competent legislative and political decisions. During her twelve years in his personal office, she was always the defense expert, but also became exceptionally knowledgeable on a variety of other subjects, especially health care legislation.

But being an expert is not enough. Working with elected officials, a staff person has to have the confidence and capability to take the policy initiatives of the Representatives and work them without straying from the electoral mandate. Marilyn, though fully capable in her own right, never crossed the line by supplanting the rights of the Members to make the decisions.

Marilyn Elrod was able to carve out a most impressive career on Capitol Hill. She started out on the bottom rung of the ladder as an entry-level administrative staff person in 1969 and, with all of the downward pressures that women have as they rise through an institution, advanced to become the staff director of the House Armed Services Committee. Being the first to accomplish such an achievement, she has set an example for others to emulate.

When staff director of the Armed Services Committee and minority staff director of the National Security Committee, Marilyn displayed her incredible strength as an administrator and her mastery of the legislative process. She brought a management style to the Committee which was a combination of openness, fairness and consultation. It is part of the Dellums-Elrod legacy that a progressive, liberal ascended to be the head of the Armed Services Committee and led it with intelligence, vision and fairness. They rose to the

occasion and discharged their leadership responsibilities to the institution.

Marilyn Elrod is a person who understands the right and responsibility of an American to thoroughly investigate government policy and, using her influence as a staff person, would always try to craft the best legislative product. She did it with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism. She is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

TRIBUTE TO THE PLANT A ROW
FOR THE HUNGRY PROJECT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many Coloradans who contributed hard work, selfless dedication, community spirit and fresh produce to the Plant a Row for the Hungry Project. This locally organized, nationally recognized project asks local gardeners to donate fresh produce for local people in need.

Last spring, seed packets were given out to many participants in the program. Now, their gardens are overflowing with fresh vegetables, many of which were donated to local residents living below the poverty line.

Susan Moore, Becky Simmons and the rest of the staff at Guley's Greenhouse contributed storage space, time and labor as did Chuck Gill and Paul Blackburn of the Larimer County Food Distribution Center. These fine people handled, stored and distributed bushels of cucumbers, carrots, squash, lettuce and peppers locally for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Susan Moore, Ms. Becky Simmons, Mr. Chuck Gill and Mr. Paul Blackburn for all of their fine efforts. Particularly, I would like to recognize the many participants in the program. Their toil has brought forth produce from the land, and food for the needy.

Often, we don't recognize those who provide us with the essentials of life like food, water, shelter and security. Like the many farmers in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, these local gardeners strengthen the age-old bond between land, labor, food and happiness.

CHILD POVERTY AND BLOCK
GRANTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would link HHS award granting to child poverty rates.

As part of welfare reform, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant program (TANF), provides over \$1 billion for incentive awards to states. Beginning in FY 1999, TANF's High Performance Bonus Award program will give bonuses to states that reduce the number of welfare recipients. In an unrelated section of the bill, TANF requires that states determine the rate of child poverty

each year and initiate corrective action if the rate increases above five percent from the previous year due to the TANF program. There is no linkage between the receipt of a high performance bonus award and child poverty rates. Therefore, under the current system, a state could sustain a dramatic increase in child poverty rates and still qualify for a bonus award if enough adults have been removed from the welfare rolls.

Such an outcome would not only constitute a major "disconnect" in welfare policy but is highly likely. For instance, in recent testimony about the Summer Food Service Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) found that TANF caused half of the states to reduce the number of food items in the meals or reduce the number of meal locations. GAO predicted that 2 million children would be provided insufficient meals, would travel further to obtain meals or may go hungry because meals will not be served in an accessible location. Under the current rules, states that reduced the lunch program would be eligible for bonus grants. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that this result, though unintended, is something we cannot ignore, or allow to continue.

This legislation would require HHS to consider child poverty rates prior to granting awards and prohibits an award to any state that allows child poverty to increase more than 5 percent per year. My colleagues, if you share my concern about the well being of children under welfare reform, join me in support of this timely and needed legislation.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARMY RESERVES
AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO
CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great contributions of the United States Army Reserve to our country. I particularly want to recognize the 63rd Regional Support Command in California. The Army Reserve was started as a pool of people whose professional skills were not regularly needed during peacetime, but were critical during deployment and mobilization. The Reserves have grown to fill a critical need for our armed services in war and peace.

The Army Reserve has served in every major American military operation since its establishment and has played a key role in supporting international peacekeeping missions around the world. Additionally, the mission of the Reserve goes far beyond aiding American interest missions abroad. An often forgotten contribution of our Army Reservists is their role here at home supporting fellow Americans in the event of disasters.

No discussion of the United States Army Reserves would be complete without mentioning their greatest resource of all—their people. These are citizen-soldiers—the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—that give their time to serve and protect us at home and abroad. These noble men and women make up 20 percent of the Army's

organized units, provide 46 percent of the Army's combat service support and 30 percent of the Army's combat support. All of this is done for about 5 percent of the Army's budget. Having served for 8 years in strategic intelligence with the Army Reserve, I can attest to the important role for these men and women.

In Southern California, the U.S. Army 63rd Regional Support Command proudly stands as our regional branch of the Army Reserve. This Support Command was established originally to help the 63rd Infantry Division support relief efforts during natural disasters and other regional crises more quickly. Headquartered in Los Alamitos, California, the 63rd Regional Support Command continues to support Active Army missions with more than 14,000 soldiers.

In response to a downsized force and frequently shifting missions, the United States Army Reserve announced in 1995 its largest realignment in decades. This realignment led to the 63rd having its geographic boundaries realigned to conform with the standard Federal district observed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The 63rd Regional Support Command continues to provide combat support and combat service support to field units during deployments. The 63rd adds flexibility to our Active Army force by filling in for troops deployed abroad. Furthermore, the 63rd is trained to provide medical units; port, rail, and other transportation support; as well as acting as a training base during full mobilization.

Presently, the 63rd Regional Support Command has control of more than 14,000 men and women serving in approximately 140 units in my home State of California, as well as Arizona and Nevada. Commanded by Brigadier General John L. Scott, the 63rd will certainly continue to shine as a keen example of the importance and prominence of the United States Army Reserve.

Today, the Army Reserve is positioned better than ever to be an active and vital player in America's Active Army. The Army Reserve stands as a symbol of the strength of the American citizen-soldier and I want to thank the Army Reserve for the continuation of their past efforts and their 90 years of dedicated service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 1, 1998 for roll call votes 474 and 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 474 and "yea" on roll call vote 475.

THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF
REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMIL-
TON OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, being unable to attend the Special Order for retiring Congressman LEE HAMILTON, I take this means to

congratulate him for a highly successful career in the House of Representatives and for being a role model for those Members who follow.

LEE has been a leader, both as chairman and ranking member of the International Relations Committee. His knowledge of America's efforts in this world has proven invaluable. His advice has been sought by other Members concerning our relations with other countries. His contributions to the field of foreign affairs will be sorely missed. But most of all, LEE HAMILTON serves as a role model as an honorable, decent, hardworking, and knowledgeable Member of this House. I have admired him as an individual and I have respected him as a Member. I am proud to call him my friend. I wish all the best for LEE and his charming wife Nancy as they enter private life at the close of this session.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK KELLEY
AND MABEL SWAFFORD

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents that operate a farmers market on Highway 34 near Greeley. Small business owners and hard-working entrepreneurs across my home state of Colorado are the heart and soul of our thriving economy. At the heart of every small business owner is the entrepreneurial spirit of our forefathers who founded and shaped this great country. I commend Mr. Patrick Kelley and Ms. Mabel Swafford for their hard work, good business, and devotion to making their customers happy. Mr. Kelley and Ms. Swafford sell fresh-picked fruit and vegetables with a warm smile and a kind hand. I commend them for their selfless dedication and extra effort for their customers. These good people set a fine example of why rural Colorado is such a wonderful place and their work contributes to building a better Colorado and a stronger America.

TRIBUTE TO EARL AND EVA KIRK

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Earl and Eva Kirk of West Frankfort, Illinois. It is a great honor to recognize this distinguished couple. They serve as excellent role models for Illinois and for future generations to follow. Their loving family celebrated Earl and Eva's milestone last month at a surprise party for them in West Frankfort. They are very dedicated Franklin county constituents, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge them as they celebrate their anniversary.

I have known the Kirks for many years now, and Earl has always been a tremendous help, especially when I need his assistance with legislation relating to people with disabilities. He has been blind for the past eight years, and has been very active with the blind com-

munity focusing his attention on their concerns. Eva has been a great asset and strength for Earl and the Illinois Council of the Blind. Earl is not only an activist on their issues, but is also one of the founders of the Three County Blind Support Group in my hometown of Marion. Every year, when the nation's budget is decided in Congress, Earl and Eva participate in the legislative process by organizing letter campaigns, making appointments with various lawmakers, and pushing for the necessary research and funding for national blind programs. Their energy and attention on these issues has been tremendous and Illinois will be forever grateful for their dedication.

The Kirks are Illinois natives, and are proud of their state and their nation. Earl served faithfully in the United States Infantry Division during World War II. As soon as he returned, he wanted to complete college at Southern Illinois University, but finished at Lockyears Business College in Evansville, Indiana. He met Eva in high school on a double date, but was interested in her, not the blind date he was with. But in 1948, he met Eva all over again. She was working as a cashier at the GTE West Frankfort office, and they were married the same year. Earl and Eva stayed in West Frankfort for a few years until he was hired as a miner and construction worker in New Mexico. Earl even got involved in local politics there, serving on the Democratic Policy State Central Committee. The Kirks called New Mexico home for almost six years, and it was there where they started raising their children Debbie and George.

They eventually returned to West Frankfort in 1958, and helped increase the booming coal economy in southern Illinois as Earl worked in the construction of Freeman #5 Mine in Benton. Earl understood the power of unions, and immediately joined the United Mine Workers of America District 12. He later worked at Freeman #4 Mine near Johnston City, and retired in 1987. The Kirks have remained in southern Illinois since then, and have been faithful citizens of Franklin county. They are dedicated participants in civic organizations, such as the American Legion and the Lions Club. Moreover, the Kirks are faithful Christians and long time members of Ezra Church of God. They even have enough time to assist their local government and health associations. From the Williamson Human Services Agency to the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and the Illinois Council of the Blind, they exemplify the essence of Illinois citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Kirks as they reach their milestone. What an honor to have such distinguished constituents like the Kirks serving their community, and their nation. I wish them my very best, and many blessings as they celebrate their 50 years of marriage.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to join my col-

leagues in paying special tribute to my good friend and colleague from Illinois, Mr. SID YATES. During my tenure in Congress, Mr. YATES has been an inspiration and a friend. He welcomed me here on my first day in Congress after my special election in 1988 and I am glad to call him a friend.

SID YATES has represented the 9th Congressional District and the State of Illinois well. He has dedicated himself to representing the citizens of the Great State of Illinois. He has been a great representative for our state and as an fellow Illinoisan, I salute Mr. YATES for his dedication and good work. He is a true statesman.

Mr. YATES' distinguished career began as an attorney in Chicago. He was first elected to this House in 1948. As a member of this body, Mr. YATES has been a quiet yet strong voice.

Mr. YATES has risen through the ranks to hold positions on the Appropriations Committee. I have worked closely with Mr. YATES in his capacity as the Ranking Member on the Interior Subcommittee to develop an interpretive center at the first campsite of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. This project is very exciting, especially since we will be celebrating the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's historic journey to explore the American West in 2003-4. Mr. YATES has worked diligently to help establish this important center. If this project comes to fruition, it will be in part due to Mr. YATES. I appreciate his interest and hard work on the issue.

Mr. YATES has used his influence on the Appropriations Committee to create new national parks, wilderness, seashores, lakeshores and wild and scenic rivers. He has been a great champion for the arts and humanities. During years of attacks on the National Endowment of the Arts, Mr. YATES has been its chief defender. I believe we as a nation owe a debt of gratitude of Mr. YATES for his perseverance on preserving the integrity and, in fact, the institutions themselves that promote artistic expression and our cultural heritage for future generations.

SID YATES has served this institution well and he will be missed. I wish Mr. YATES and his family well in the years to come.

THOMAS M. BARRY ACCEPTING
NEW POSITION AND CHALLENGE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Thomas M. Barry, on his promotion to President of the SBC International's Telkom South Africa.

When Tom arrived in this town just a few short years ago to take the helm of SBC Communication's Inc. Washington office his assignment was a modest one: to work to modernize the rules by which the United States telecommunications industry was governed.

Now, Tom Barry was not your ordinary Washington lobbyist. Having spent some 30 years with the telephone company and most recently having come to the world of strategic planning, he knew a whole lot more about the true impact of our telecommunications rules governing universal service and competition in local and long distance than many who had

worked on them. His knowledge and experience were important to those of us who had been working ardently to modernize the telecommunications industry so that American companies could compete in a global arena. The result of our work, The Telecommunications Act of 1996, was landmark legislation in which we can all take pride. Tom Barry was vital to our efforts.

It is in this light that I would like to join my dear friend and former colleague, Jack Brooks, and submit his remarks for the RECORD.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN JACK BROOKS SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO THOMAS M. BARRY UPON HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRESIDENT, SBC INTERNATIONAL'S TELKOM SOUTH AFRICA OPERATION

Sometimes, due to circumstances surrounding the nature of one's position, an individual shows up briefly in your life but his contributions, even if for no longer than a year or so, make him unforgettable. Such an individual is Thomas M. Barry of SBCI.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I had been involved for several years in an effort to rationalize existing laws and to develop new legislation to provide for more open competition in the telecommunications industry. It was not surprising that with all the competing and diverse interests involved, we were having considerable difficulty and receiving widely conflicting advice. One significant difficulty was that there was no one in a leadership role for the regional Bell companies to present all of their various concerns to me and to John Dingell, who as Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee was key to the passage of any telecommunications legislation.

In 1992, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company selected a seasoned telecommunications veteran, Tom Barry, as its Senior Vice President for Federal Relations. When Tom arrived on the Washington scene, it became readily apparent that we had met a knowledgeable, experienced expert in all aspects of the industry. Not only did he have an encyclopedic knowledge of the industry and its issues, but also he brought a reasonable, enlightened approach to the legislative dialogue.

While he was an extremely effective advocate for his company, he recognized the need to be reasonable and with his long experience was able to place into perspective the varying participating and often conflicting interests. He was strongly committed to his company and to his industry but he never lost sight of the need to resolve matters equitably if any consensus was to be reached.

When we finally put together a bill with the leadership of my esteemed former colleague, John Dingell, although it was not perfect, it was workable and fair. That we were able to do so was aided greatly by the hard work and solid efforts of many individuals, but particularly Tom Barry.

Although our association in retrospect was fleeting, I believe I came to know him quite well during our strenuous meetings. He is a man of integrity. He is an affable, highly intelligent individual. We were able to conduct our work with good humor and respect for one another's sincere beliefs. Tom's superior intellect and ability to manage situations and people should serve him well as he travels to South Africa to begin his tenure as President of SBC International's Telkom South Africa operations.

Tom Barry has my warmest congratulations upon his latest appointment within SBC International. It will be most likely not be an easy assignment, however, there is no

question in my mind but that he will do an outstanding job there, as he has with everything else he has undertaken. I wish him and his family all my best as they begin a new journey in life. Although South Africa is quite a long way from the United States, at least now—through state of the art improvements in telecommunications—it won't seem to be that far. I hope that Tom will take some time to thoroughly enjoy this new challenging opportunity. Certainly SBC made a wise decision in the selection of this fine man to head up their operation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 28, 1998, I was absent due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the Majority Leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

Monday, September 28, 1998

H.R. 3891—Trademark Anticounterfeiting Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (Roll Call No. 470): AYE

H.R. 4103—Defense Appropriations Act for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 471): AYE

H.R. 4060—Energy and Water Development Appropriations for FY 1999: On Agreeing to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 472): AYE

H.R. 3150—Bankruptcy Reform Act: On the Motion to Instruct Conferees (Roll Call No. 473): AYE

Thursday, October 1, 1998

S. 2073—Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act: On the Motion to Go to Conference (Roll Call No. 474): AYE

H. Res. 563—Waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 4104, Fiscal Year 1999 Treasury, Postal, and General Government Appropriations.

On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 475): AYE

Friday, October 2, 1998

H. Res. 564—providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4274) making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 476): AYE

House Journal of Friday, October 2, 1998

On approving the Journal (Roll Call No. 477): AYE

H.R. 4101—making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

On Motion to Recommit Conference Report with Instructions (Roll Call No. 478): NAY

On Agreeing to the Resolution (Roll Call No. 479): AYE

TRIBUTE TO TIGGES FARMERS MARKET

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the owners and operators of the Tigges farmers market in Weld County. Mary Tigges handles the gardening, her son Ken creates unique metal sculptures, and her two daughters contribute crafts such as hand-crafted bears and painted gourds for decoration and bird houses. Besides being a family business amidst 20 acres of pumpkins and thousands of pepper and tomato plants, the Tigges market is unique because it does business on the honor system. Children play in the pumpkin patch, while shoppers are free to purchase fresh produce while no one is around. The Tigges demonstrate a special trust in the good nature and honesty of people that shop at their market. And Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that they have never had any problems with this policy. I salute the Tigges family for their fine work and service, and all the good people that uphold the values that make rural Colorado such a wonderful place.

RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL JOSEPH LOPEZ

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, U.S. Navy, as he prepares to retire upon completion of 39 years of faithful service to our Nation.

A native of Powellton, West Virginia, Admiral Lopez entered the United States Navy in September 1959, and was commissioned an Ensign via the Seaman-to-Admiral Program in December 1964. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) in International Relations, and a Master of Science in Personnel Management. Admiral Lopez is currently the only serving admiral who enlisted, was commissioned through the seaman to admiral program, and currently wears four stars.

Upon commissioning, Admiral Lopez was assigned to U.S.S. *Eugene A. Greene* (DD 711), which deployed to both the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Tonkin. He then attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School in Newport, RI, immediately returning to sea as Weapons Officer onboard U.S.S. *Lind* (DD 703), which also deployed to Vietnam. Admiral Lopez received his first command in September 1969, when he assumed the duties as Commander, River Assault Division 153, which operated in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam and as part of a counter-offensive into Cambodia in May 1970.

Admiral Lopez attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, from 1970–73 and the Armed Forces Staff College in 1974. He was then assigned as Flag Secretary and Staff Officer for Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight from 1974 to 1977.

He was the Executive Officer onboard U.S.S. *Truett* (FF 1095) from October 1977 through March 1979. Upon completion of tours at the Naval Military Personnel Command and assignment as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics), Admiral Lopez assumed command of U.S.S. *Stump* (DD 978) in September 1982, completing a Persian Gulf deployment in 1983. In November 1984, he was assigned as Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel (Flag Officer Matters).

Commander, Destroyer Squadron 32, which deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, was Admiral Lopez' next command tour from February 1987 to March 1988. He followed this assignment with duties as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training) and Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Lopez was designated Rear Admiral (Lower Half) in July 1989, and served as Deputy Director, Current Operations (J-3) on the Joint Staff. He served as Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense during the Persian Gulf Conflict and from July 1990 to July 1992. He commanded the United States Sixth Fleet and NATO's Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe, homeported in Gaeta, Italy, from July 1992 to December 1993. He then served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments) from December 1993 to July 1996.

Admiral Lopez became Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe (London, England) and Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe (Naples, Italy) on 31 July 1996, where he serves today. Additionally, he commanded the Peace Implementation Forces (IFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina from July 1996 to November 1996. He arrived in the middle of the IFOR deployment and almost immediately deployed to Bosnia to command the NATO forces in charge of enforcing the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Admiral Lopez has been honored by the Governor of his home state as a "Distinguished West Virginian," and as an "Outstanding West Virginian" by the President of Salem College. West Virginia Institute of Technology conferred upon him the honorary degree as Doctor of Humanities, and the Italian Heritage Festival, in 1989, selected him as "West Virginia Man of the Year." Additionally, in June of 1997, the newly constructed Interstate 64 bridge spanning the Kanawha River near Charleston was named in his honor by the West Virginia State Legislature.

A man of Joe Lopez's stature and vision is rare. He is an individual of uncommon character and professionalism. He will be missed by both his Navy and NATO colleagues. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize him, and to thank him and his wife Vivian for their selfless service to our country.

ATHLETES UNITED FOR PEACE
AND THE ANNUAL DON
BARKSDALE "HUMANITARIAN OF
THE YEAR" AWARD RECIPIENT,
MARTIN WYATT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on November 21, 1998, the Athletes United for Peace (AUP) will present the Don Barksdale "Humanitarian of the Year" award to Mr. Martin Wyatt.

Athletes United for Peace (AUP) is a Bay Area nonprofit organization committed to promoting peace, education, friendship and understanding through community programs and events for young people. The organization was established in 1984 after the boycott of the Olympic Games by athletes from the former USSR and the United States.

In 1992, after serving primarily as an international organization during the early years, AUP focused its energy toward providing programs and activities for high-risk youth and young adults throughout the East Bay communities of Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond. The organization continually strives to offer low-income disadvantaged participants programs and events that promote the agency's ideals and serve as health alternatives to criminal activity and antisocial behavior amongst young people.

Each year, AUP serves more than 700 young people between the ages of 7-26 with programs, activities and events that include: mentorship, late-night basketball, academic and sports camps, youth sport camps and clinics, video production training, academic lectures, tournaments and special events. These services are regularly provided in partnership with several public schools, local government and law enforcement agencies, and the local business community.

AUP established the Don Barksdale "Humanitarian of the Year" Award in 1994 as a tribute to the last Oakland philanthropist who devoted his life to help aspiring Bay Area young people through his "Save High School Sports" Foundation (established in 1985) in Oakland, CA. Through Don Barksdale's diligent efforts, the foundation raised more than one million dollars to help fund financially troubled high school sports programs throughout the Bay Area.

Don Barksdale, a sports and entertainment pioneer, broke the color barrier and paved the road for countless other people. In the 1940's and the 1950's, he was the Nation's premiere African American basketball star and was named to the NCAA college basketball All America team (UCLA 1947); selected to compete in the US Men's Olympic Basketball team (London 1948); and played in the NBA All Star game (Ft. Wayne 1953).

Don Barksdale was a trailblazer being the first popular radio disc jockey (KROW and KLX); the first to host a weekly television show (SEPIA REVIEW KRON 4); the first to own and operate a beer distributorship, while integrating the local beverage driver's union in Oakland. He helped thousands of musicians and entertainers break into the entertainment industry by employing them at the Sportsman and Showcase night clubs that he owned and operated in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Don

Barksdale's impact on the East Bay is unparalleled and recognized through the Athletes United for Peace awards.

The Don Barksdale "Humanitarian of the Year" award recipient is Martin Wyatt, founder of the "Sports Image & Education Foundation." He will be recognized for his dedication and commitment to charitable agencies in the community serving youth. Martin Wyatt, an Emmy award winning television sports anchor/director for ABC TV in San Francisco, is the annual host of his foundations' "Sports Image Award" ceremony that honors men and women in sports who do enormous amount of community work. He has also devoted time serving on the board of directors for the Bay Area Black United Fund and the Oakland Area Black community Crusade for Children.

It is with great pride and honor that I salute the work of the Athletes United for Peace and Martin Wyatt, a deserving recipient of the Don Barksdale "Humanitarian of the Year" award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, HIGHER EDUCATION AMEND- MENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, next week, President Clinton will sign the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, passed unanimously by both the House and Senate earlier this week. This is, on balance, a good bill that will make a real difference in the lives of our Nation's students.

With the Higher Education Act, we have established a proud tradition over the last 34 years of providing opportunities to millions of Americans—giving them the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers and to be active and productive citizens. Above all, we have given these millions of Americans, particularly those with lower-incomes, life options they simply would not have had otherwise. That is something we can all be proud of.

STUDENT INTEREST RATE

This most prominent feature of this bill is the lowering of the student loan interest rate. Under this bill, a student with an average student loan debt of \$13,000 will save \$700 in interest payments. Students with higher burdens of debt will save even more.

This is a good deal for students and for parents who help pay for their children's education.

Unfortunately, this bill continues what I, and many others, consider to be unnecessarily high subsidies to the banks and guaranty agencies that participate in the student loan program. I seriously question the fairness of the burden that, as a result, will continue to fall on our nation's taxpayers.

In this authorization, we have shaved slightly the rate of return to banks. But since we went much further in lowering the rate that students pay, we had to come up with more than a billion dollars to make up the difference to maintain the hefty profits that banks in the student loan program enjoy. Ironically, a great deal of the cost will be born by students who are least able to afford it, those with loan debt who encounter financial hardship.

It did not have to be that way.

Earlier this year, the Treasury Department published a thorough and detailed analysis which showed that we could have gone much farther in reducing interest rates while still keeping the program profitable for lenders.

Unfortunately, Congress chose to largely ignore this report.

One of the problems in finding the "right" interest rate is that if Congress were to go too far in cutting rates, it would risk causing a major withdrawal of bankers from student lending, which would be very disruptive to students and parents. One would hope to be able to rely on information from the lending community in making such a determination, but instead the banks have traditionally played a game of chicken in which they have threatened to leave the student loan program each and every time Congress has sought to lower interest rates or trim unnecessary costs. Of course, they have never followed through on such threats because the reality is that student loans have been, and under this bill will continue to be, a very profitable enterprise.

I believe there are better places—Head Start, Pell Grants, TRIO, Title I—to put billions of federal education dollars other than in the coffers of already wealthy financial institutions.

President Clinton and members of Congress, particularly Congressmen ANDREWS and Senator KENNEDY, have worked hard over the years and in this reauthorization to create a fairer and more efficient system for setting interest rates. I look forward to continuing working with them on this issue.

TEACHER QUALITY PROVISIONS

This bill contains a number of provisions aimed at strengthening teacher quality, including those drawn from my bill, the "Teaching Excellence for All Children Act" (HR 2228). I appreciate the opportunity we have had to work together in a bipartisan fashion on these issues, and particularly want to thank Chairman GOODLING, Ranking member CLAY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCCARTHY, and Mr. FORD, as well as Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, for all their hard work in crafting what I think is a fairly strong package.

I also want to commend the excellent policy analyses, particularly those by the Education Trust, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and the Congressional Research Service, that have done so much to inform the work we did here.

All across the nation, states and local school districts are raising standards for what students should know and be able to do. Research clearly shows that qualified teachers are key to children's ability to succeed in school. In fact, after parental involvement, the quality of a student's teacher is the most important factor in their academic career.

We now have, for the first time, a bill that addresses, from a federal perspective, issues of teacher quality at each stage in the process: preparation, recruitment, placement, professional development, and retention.

This bill provides financial incentives to attract qualified individuals into teaching and authorizes funds for support and mentoring to help make sure that qualified teachers remain in the profession. This will also help ensure that the taxpaying public gets its money's worth, by improving the quality of teacher preparation, by providing better information to parents regarding the quality of their child's teacher, and by implementing a more rigorous system of accountability.

For the first time, federally funded teacher preparation programs nationwide will publish and disseminate information on the percentage of their graduates who pass state licensing tests. States will be required to identify low-performing teacher preparation programs. And, ultimately, federal funds will be withheld from consistently low-performing schools.

Teacher preparation is the foundation of our entire educational system. Many schools do a good job in preparing teachers, but the evidence is clear that too many others fall far short. In this bill, Congress is sending an important notice to colleges and universities: we will hold you accountable for the billions in taxpayer dollars you get each year. You owe it to students, their parents, taxpayers and to the teachers themselves to raise the bar on teacher training.

LABOR CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNIVERSITY MERCHANDISE

I am also pleased that the House and Senate agreed to include my amendment to call on universities and colleges to adopt labor codes of conduct to prevent the use of sweatshops or child labor in the manufacture of university merchandise that they sell.

These codes of conduct are on the agenda for universities and colleges across the country and I applaud the students and administrators that are working to see that schools of higher learning do not participate in the lowest forms of exploitation.

By adopting this amendment, Congress sends an important message to schools across this country: Use the power of your purse. Tell businesses what you will accept and what you will not, and they will adhere to your demands. The market for university merchandise like sweatshirts and baseball caps is big enough to influence the way the goods are made. In fact, schools sell nearly \$2.5 billion worth of goods each year.

Without a code of conduct, schools will not know whether they are participating in labor exploitation. And without a good code, promises made about good labor conducts can be easily broken.

A quote by the provost of Harvard, made in another context, illustrates the importance of codes of conduct to schools. He said, "All members of the University and the institution as a whole benefit when its name is well used, and suffer when it is ill used."

Codes of conduct alone are not enough to assure honest wages, a safe workplace, and respect for workers, and I believe Congress should look to take additional actions against child labor and sweatshops. There are many bills pending in the House today that would help in that effort.

But simply raising the issue can make a difference. Look at the soccer ball industry. After widespread publicity and outrage over the manufacture of soccer balls by small children in Pakistan, a few of the manufacturers announced they would no longer use child labor for soccer balls.

The international economy today places great pressure on companies to compete for low wages and low standards. Consumers are the last defense for workers and children in the United States and around the world. The codes of conduct for universities and colleges are one important weapon in our arsenal against exploitation.

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

As passed by the House, this legislation included language which would have abruptly ended eligibility to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau for Pell Grants, Special Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and the College Work-Study Program.

I am therefore particularly pleased that the conferees were able to agree to continue these programs and thereby honor our commitment to these Pacific islands to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. Under the conference report students will continue to benefit from these important programs through 2004, by which time the Compacts of Free Association with these nations will have been renegotiated.

CAUTION ON TRADE AND PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS

Trade and proprietary schools play an integral role in educating and training our nation's workforce and we should do whatever we can to ensure that students have access to the high quality training that they provide.

But, unfortunately, this bill contains new loopholes that will weaken monitoring and enforcement of current laws that address trade school abuses of federal student aid programs.

In the last reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Congress tightened oversight of proprietary and trade schools in response to widespread instances of fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Since 1990, more than 1,500 trade schools have been kicked out of federal student aid programs, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and protecting thousands of students from being ripped off.

The Department of Education's Inspector General recommended this year that we tighten program requirements even further. But instead the Congress, under heavy pressure from trade school owners, has decided to retreat in the battle against fraud and abuse.

I fear that once again we will see a spate of press accounts of schemes to bilk students and taxpayers. I fear that once again, a few bad apples will be allowed to tarnish the reputations of schools that are doing an effective job of training and educating students.

I intend to monitor the implementation of these new provisions closely and hope that if and when problems do arise, Congress will act swiftly and responsibly to protect students and taxpayers.

EDUCATION CAN AND SHOULD BE A BIPARTISAN ENDEAVOR

On balance, however, this is a good bill with many important provisions that will benefit America's students and workers. It is an example of what can be accomplished when partisan differences are set aside and members work together to find common ground on issues of great importance to our nation. It is an example I hope we continue to follow on education legislation.

HONORING THE IMANI SCHOOL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Imani School of Houston as it

celebrates 10 years of excellence at a Gala on November 13, 1998 at The Power Center.

The Imani School is a private, Christian co-educational school serving children from pre-school through eighth grade. Founded in 1988 by Windsor Village United Methodist Church, it began with 25 three- and four-year-olds. Today, the enrollment for 1998-99 includes 450 students, with a waiting list of more than 100 applicants each year. The school is accredited by the National Private Schools Accreditation Alliance, and admission is open to all students on a first come, first serve basis.

The Imani School has earned a national and international reputation for academic excellence and service to the community. The School has been featured on numerous television programs, including on CBS television as a "Cool School" for its outstanding community service, on NBC Today Weekend, and on a British Broadcasting Company program broadcast around the globe. Its success has attracted many dignitaries, including First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Texas Governor George W. Bush, former Governor Ann Richards, and Houston Mayor (and former director of the U.S. Office of Drug Control Policy) Lee Brown, who hailed Imani as "one of the finest schools in the nation".

The Imani School's record certainly backs up these claims. Ninety percent of all former Imani students who enter area public schools for the first time place in classes for the academically gifted. SAT scores for the school surpass the national average in both reading and math at every grade level. Students in fifth through eighth grades won a gold medal for "Best of Show", as well as first and second place awards, at the Regional Association of Christian Schools International Science Fair. In addition, Imani students received seven out of ten of the first awards given at the 1997 NTA Regional Science fair sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Imani students also were awarded first and second place in the primary division and first in the intermediate division in the area Juneteenth Black History Essay contest.

The Imani School is also involved in positive school/community partnership efforts including a collaboration with the Garden Terrace Retirement Home, where students in the third to eighth grades make weekly trips to do crafts, entertain, or just visit with elderly residents. Also, middle school students join preschoolers and parents to repair and paint homes and provide food, clothing, and toys to needy families. Each summer, the Imani School provides summer camp programs to residents of the Patrice House, a shelter for abused and neglected children. Imani students also speak before corporations including Exxon and Chevron and at educational events throughout the community.

The Imani School has also achieved athletic success. At the end of Imani's first season in the Private School Basketball League, two students were chosen All Tournament Players.

To the students, their families, and faculty of the Imani School, I say congratulations. Your hard work and dedication is paying off. To the Windsor Village United Methodist Church, I say thank you for having the wisdom to start the Imani School and the fortitude to keep it strong. Your efforts have produced a school that is an example of the educational success that can be achieved with a supportive community, dedicated parents and teachers, and a commitment to innovation and excellence.

IN MEMORY OF A HERO AND A PASTOR, REV. EDWARD CONNORS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly thirteen years since the Rev. Edward T. Connors, retired pastor of Immaculate Conception parish and chaplain of the 9th "Yankee" Infantry Division during World War II, passed away on January 28, 1986, but his memory and spiritual inspiration still remain strong in Central Massachusetts.

Father Connors received many awards and honors throughout his lifetime, including the Silver Star, one of our nation's highest honors for heroism, for rescuing a soldier from "no man's land" through a mine field that was considered suicidal to cross. He was also honored frequently for his life's work in the Worcester region, including the Fourth Degree Patriotism Award from Bishop O'Reilly Assembly, Knights of Columbus, in 1980, and the Crusader of the Year award from Holy Cross College in 1981. In 1985, he was honored by 1,600 at a testimonial at Worcester Auditorium.

Many families and veterans, clergy and faculty, from the cities and towns of Worcester, Northbridge, Grafton, North Grafton and Whitinsville still remember his courage, humor, intelligence and dedication as a pastor, community leader, and humanitarian.

In his memory, and on behalf of all whose lives were touched by this pastor and gentleman of distinction, I would like to enter into this RECORD the January 30, 1986 article in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette describing his deeds and his contributions to our nation.

[From the Worcester Telegram and Gazette Thursday, Jan. 30, 1986]

REV. EDWARD CONNORS, RETIRED IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PASTOR

The Rev. Edward T. Connors, 80, retired pastor of Immaculate Conception parish and chaplain of the 9th "Yankee" Infantry Division during World II, died Tuesday in St. Francis Home, 37 Thorne St.

He lived at 87-5 Park Ave.

Father Connors was chaplain of the 9th Infantry Division during the invasions of Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany—invasions which cost the division 4,581 lives during the war.

After he was discharged from service in 1945, Father Connors returned as a curate at St. Peter's Church.

In 1950 he was named pastor of St. Phillip's Church in Grafton. He was also pastor at St. Mary's parish in North Grafton before becoming pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Worcester in 1952. During his pastorate at Immaculate Conception, the parish built a new church in 1957. He retired in 1980.

Born in Whitinsville, he was a son of Bartholomew J. and Mary (Haggerty) Connors.

He graduated from Northbridge High School and from Holy Cross College in 1927. He studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore from 1927 to 1931, and was ordained in Springfield in 1931 by Bishop Thomas J. O'Leary.

He was assigned as curate of St. Peter's church and athletic director of St. Peter's High School in 1931, when the football team then won the state championship. Lester "Buster" Sheary, who was coaching three sports at St. Peter's when the new curate ar-

rived, recalled, "If anyone ever revived St. Peter's athletics, it was Father Ed."

And Joseph Walsh, St. Peter's basketball standout during Father Connors' second tour there after World War II, recalled his spirit: "He had a special enthusiasm for the athletes and the teams."

Two years after his arrival at St. Peter's, Father Connors joined Father James M. McCarron in forming the Catholic League for Worcester and County high school basketball teams.

In 1935, Father Connors was transferred to Sacred Heart Academy and a year later to St. Bernard's High School in Fitchburg, where he was athletic director until he entered the Army in 1942.

"CONNOR'S COFFEE SHOP"

Partly because of his pleading with military and church authorities, he was allowed to follow "his boys" into the front lines.

The legend of the chaplain's "coffee shop," his friendly mingling with enlisted men, his disregard for rank, his intense interest in "his boys" regardless of their religion, and his heroism long outlived the war.

In particular, "Connors' Coffee Shop" was a tradition among the troops of the 9th during any respite from battle. Brewed in a big aluminum pitcher and heated on a ration-can stove with kerosene, the coffee was simply boiled and served. When the coffee ran low, Father Connors just added more grounds and water.

"We never dared get all the way down to the bottom of the pot," he mused. "We were afraid of what we might find in it. There was a quarter-inch cake of coffee on the sides of it to add to the flavor, and there were days when the men claimed they had to chew it—it was too strong to drink."

Father Connors was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing a soldier from "No Man's Land" through a mine field that was considered suicidal to cross.

One veteran of the 9th, of the Greek Orthodox faith, recalled Father Connors as "a great chaplain . . . he was right down in front when it all counted. He was one of the troops."

In recalling the growth of the ecumenical movement, he once said of the soldiers of the 9th, "We didn't talk it; we've lived it . . . It was no big deal for us. This was the way we lived those years: Dedicated to our own faith, praying together in a common purpose." He told of a Jewish chaplain who was shelled and dying in a battlefield in France.

"He asked for my blessing before dying. Not absolution," he added. "He died a strong, dedicated Jew, but wanted my blessing. We all must have a faith. We must believe in it. Stand up for it. But—we can all pray together."

During the war, he became a close friend of Gen. William C. Westmoreland, later Army chief of staff.

When he returned to Worcester after the war, Father Connors yearned for a reunion with his 9th Division comrades. So he launched a yearly tradition in his home parish, then St. Peter's parish. The reunion and memorial Mass were conceived, he said, to celebrate the living and honor the dead of the 9th.

HONORED MANY TIMES

Father Connors received numerous awards, including the Fourth Degree Patriotism Award from Bishop O'Reilly Assembly, Knights of Columbus, in 1980, Crusader of the Year award from Holy Cross College in 1981.

Of his parishioners, Father Connors said, "I hope I have inspired them as much as they inspired me."

In March 1985, he was honored by 1,600 at a testimonial at Worcester auditorium.

Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan then called Father Connors "a good friend and an example of a dedicated and zealous priest."

The Rev. Paul T. O'Connell, his associate for 10 years at Immaculate Conception Church, said Father Connors had really taught him "the good things in life."

And President Ronald Reagan wrote from the White House, "Your spirit of patriotism and your spirit of faith is the same that built America."

Father Connors was spiritual director for 35 years of the Worcester Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses. He was also chaplain for Division 36 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Worcester and chaplain of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Worcester.

He was a member of the Emerald Club.

He leaves several cousins.

The funeral will be tomorrow with a concelebrated Mass at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St. Bishop Timothy J. Harrington will be principal celebrant. Burial will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Whitinsville.

Calling hours at the church are 2 to 9 p.m. today.

A wake service will be there at 7 p.m. today. Members of Division 36, Ancient Order of Hibernians, will convene at 7 p.m. to attend the service.

It is requested flowers be omitted. Memorial donations may be made to the Clergy Fund of the Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm St.

Athy Memorial Home, 111 Lancaster St., is directing arrangements.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S APPEARANCE MET WITH LARGE PROTEST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee went to the United Nations in New York last week. He was met by about 200 protestors, mostly Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and others, who were there to protest Indian nuclearization of South Asia and demand freedom for their people. This protest did not get as much coverage in the media as you might have expected under normal circumstances, so it is appropriate to take note of it here.

The demonstration was led by Sikh youth in the New York area and the President of the Richmond Hill (N.Y.) Gurdwara. The demonstrators shouted slogans against Indian nuclear-weapons development. They also shouted slogans like "India stop genocide" as well as slogans for Sikh independence.

In a flyer circulated at the demonstration, the organizers wrote that "Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging South Asia into a nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world."

India has recently deployed its Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, Khalistan. Some of these missiles are capable of reaching parts of the United States. This deployment greatly increases the likelihood of war in South Asia, a war we now know can easily become nuclear.

The Indian government has also practiced genocide against the minorities it rules. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984,

more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and ten of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The government paid thousands of cash bounties to police officers who killed Sikhs!

This is why the organizers wrote that "the Indian government's main mission is Hindu, Hindi, Hindustan. There is no room for Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, or Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic."

While India pursues this undemocratic, imperialist objective, it takes the average Indian worker three days' pay just to buy a box of Corn Flakes. Half the population of the country lives below the international poverty line, which is substantially lower than the U.S. poverty line. Yet America officially supports this repressive, hegemonic country. We must be a beacon for freedom in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must codify the sanctions now in place against India. We must stop providing aid to this repressive regime. And finally, we must put this Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir—the latter in accord with India's 50-year-old promise to the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this event to my attention. I would also like to insert the Burning Punjab article on the demonstration and the flyer from that event into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues. I hope that this information will help make it clear to us all just what kind of country India really is.

[From the Burning Punjab News, Sept. 26, 1998]

SIKHS AND OTHERS HOLD LARGE PROTEST AGAINST INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S UN VISIT (By Atam Inder Singh)

NEW YORK.—A large numbers of Sikhs came to the United Nations in New York on Thursday to protest the appearance of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In addition, Kashmiri Muslims and other victims of Indian tyranny protested simultaneously. Protestors distributed a large number of flyers to passers-by. They shouted slogans of "India stop genocide," and "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa", as well as slogans against Indian nuclear weapons development. Agni and Prithvi missiles have been deployed in Punjab. The flyer pointed out that "Vajpayee is the leader of the BJP, the militant Hindu fanatic party in India, and is the head of a repressive, fascist government that oppresses its minorities and is unfriendly to the United States." The flyer said that "Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging South Asia into a nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world," it said. The flyer took note of the deployment of Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, of its support of the nuclear efforts of rogue states like Iraq, and of the murders of large numbers of minorities living under Indian rule. The Indian government has eliminated large numbers of Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. "The Indian Government's main agenda is Hindu, Hindi, Hindustan," the flyer said. "There is no room for Muslims,

Sikhs, Buddhists, or Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic," it said. "On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I salute the organizers of this demonstration, especially Gurpreet Singh and the President of the Richmond Hill Gurdwara, Mr. Balwinder Singh Cheema," said Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization that leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to free the Sikh Nation. "This effort was mostly done by the educated Sikh youth," he added.

PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS BUILDUP

The American Sikh community and its supporters are gathering at the United Nations on September 24th 1998, to protest the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Mr. Vajpayee is the leader of the BJP, the militant Hindu nationalist party in India, and is the head of a repressive, fascist government that oppresses its minorities and is unfriendly to the United States:

Mr. Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging Southeast Asia into a Nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world. Earlier this year, two members of the BJP publicly called for Pakistan to become part of India.

The Indian government has deployed its Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, Khalistan greatly increasing the likelihood of war and putting the lives of Sikhs and other minorities at risk.

Indian has provided heavy water to Iran and is now working closely with Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. India votes against the United States at the United Nations more often than any other country except Castro's Cuba. India publicly supported the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Indian government's main agenda is "Hindu, Hinda, Hindustan (India)". There is no room for Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, for Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic.

The government made every effort to disrupt the first meeting of the Punjab People's Commission, which was set up to investigate human-rights violations at Punjab. They cancelled the reservation the commission had for meeting space and tried to influence other facilities not to grant them space. The People's Commission issued citations to 90 police officers and now has received 3,000 more cases. The Indian government has spent over 20 million Rupees in legal fees to protect the police officers that have carried out these atrocities.

On July 23, Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaspal Singh Dhillon and his attorney on a false charge. Dhillon worked with Jaswant Singh Khaira on his report which showed that the police abducted, tortured, and murdered tens of thousands of Sikh youth, then declared their bodies "unidentified" and cremated them, a policy the Indian Supreme Court called "worse than a genocide."

In August, it was reported that death squads from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are going into villages in the Faridkot district of Punjab and murdering villagers.

To date, Amnesty International and other Human Rights organizations have been denied access to Punjab to witness for themselves the atrocities that the Sikhs are suffering.

Please join us and raise your voice to condemn Nuclear India and support human rights for Sikhs and all minorities in India.

THE SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman ARCHER on the inclusion in this bill of the provision to modify and extend the present law treatment of active financial services income under Subpart F of the Internal Revenue Code. The provision permits U.S.-based insurance companies, banks, finance companies, securities dealers, and other financial services firms—like other U.S. industries doing business abroad—to defer the U.S. tax on the earnings from the active operations of their foreign subsidiaries until such earnings are returned to the U.S. parent company. The provision is vital to the global competitiveness of the U.S. financial services industry.

In particular, I commend Chairman ARCHER and the staff for the resolution of the question relating to the interaction of this subpart F provision regarding active financial services income and the ability of the U.S. financial services industry to use so-called hybrid arrangements and other techniques to reduce their foreign taxes. In January of this year, the Treasury Department issued notice 98-11, attacking the use by U.S.-owned foreign companies of hybrid arrangements to reduce their foreign taxes. Chairman ARCHER, along with a bipartisan majority of the Ways and Means Committee, strongly opposed the Treasury Department's action on Notice 98-11. In response to the concerns raised by Congressman ARCHER, in June of this year, the Treasury Department issued Notice 98-35, withdrawing Notice 98-11. According to Notice 98-35, "the purpose of this action [was] to allow Congress an appropriate period to review the important policy issues raised . . . and if appropriate, address the issues by the legislation." Notice 98-35 further provides specific rules with respect to the use of hybrid arrangements during the interim. In Notice 98-35, the Treasury Department wisely anticipated and explicitly provided for the use of hybrid arrangements to reduce foreign taxes with respect to financial services income.

Concerns had been raised regarding whether the provision in this bill modifying and extending the subpart F treatment of active financial services income could be interpreted to limit in any way the ability to use hybrid arrangements to reduce foreign taxes. Of course, such a limit would be inconsistent with the position regarding active financial services income set forth by the Treasury Department in Notice 98-35. Moreover, such a limit would be inconsistent with the purpose of this provision, which is intended to improve the ability of the U.S. financial services industry to compete with its foreign counterparts. Because of the importance of this issue, I am very pleased that the provision modifying and extending subpart F treatment of active financial services income was carefully drafted so that nothing in the provision would authorize or allow this treatment to be denied because a hybrid arrangement, or any other technique available under foreign tax law, is used to reduce foreign tax.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to my Illinois colleague, Congressman SIDNEY YATES, as he nears the end of this, his 24th and final term as a Member of this body.

Congressman YATES has been a true patriot in the very best sense of the word. He has been a stalwart advocate for issues near and dear to his heart and those of the people he has so ably represented over the years.

In 1996, Congressman YATES told the Chicago Sun-Times that, "my promise is to fight, and I did that."

Indeed he has done so. SIDNEY YATES has been a tremendous advocate for the arts, for our environment and for our nation. His work has made a difference for all of us but has a particular impact on our home state of Illinois.

Back home, SIDNEY YATES is regarded as a living standard of excellence in public service by which the rest of us only hope to be measured favorably.

Not long ago, Congressman YATES showed me a certificate from a congressional baseball game that game he had played in back in 1950. It amused me because I hadn't even been born when that game had been played. As a current participant in the game, I will play hard and play to win as SIDNEY did back in 1950.

It humbled me by the notion that I was standing next to a man who had played the game and played it well for so many years. SIDNEY YATES stands among us tonight as a reminder of the fact that age and experience can never be matched or duplicated, but can be a learning tool for those of us who attempt to follow it.

From your downstate admirers, let me say thank you to an illustrious career whose full measure has yet to be realized.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO HULON B.
"ROCKY" WHITTINGTON FOR HIS
DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding individual from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, the late Hulon B. "Rocky" Whittington.

Mr. Whittington, who hails from the small town of Oak Harbor, Ohio, in Ottawa County, lived a truly memorable life. During his life he was committed to the principles of duty, honor, country. Nowhere is this legacy more evident than in the fact that Mr. Whittington was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

For his bravery and commitment, Mr. Whittington was presented with our nation's most prized and coveted military recognition. His heroism and patriotism are examples for

each of us to live by, and his efforts played a key role in securing the very freedom that we, as Americans enjoy each and every day of our lives.

The Congressional Medal of Honor's origin dates back to the Civil War, where it was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. The Medal of Honor is presented to those in combat having gone "above and beyond the call of duty."

In July of 1944, near Grimesnil, France, Sergeant Hulon B., Whittington, Second Armored Division, led a group of men into battle against an advancing German tank column. With their platoon leader missing in action and in the face of scores of enemy troops, Sergeant Whittington's expert leadership and bravery resulted in the destruction of more than 100 German vehicles. During the battle, countless numbers of German soldiers were killed or taken prisoner during a bayonet charge that he inspired.

Mr. Speaker, On Saturday, October 3, 1998, Sergeant Whittington will be recognized by members of the Oak Harbor Masonic Lodge for his dedication and commitment to service. He was an outstanding community member and a caring and devoted Mason. His efforts have been and will continue to be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, although Sergeant Whittington passed away several years ago, his deeds on the battlefields of World War II and in the Oak Harbor community will not soon be forgotten. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to a true American hero, Sergeant Hulon B. "Rocky" Whittington.

THE PASSING OF MEG DONOVAN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the tragic death yesterday of Meg Donovan, a former member of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, now the Committee on International Relations, and most recently a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

Meg worked for our committee for eight years. During that time, and in her previous work for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe, she was a tireless advocate of human rights. At a time when it was not always fashionable, she worked to ensure that every piece of legislation which this committee considered took into account the human rights record of the governments involved. Many staffers, and Members, learned—sometimes the hard way—that whatever their own agenda might be, their legislation would be "scrubbed" by Meg for its human rights implications before it left this committee. In short, Meg put the human rights issue on the Congressional map.

Some Members would be more familiar with Meg in her more recent work, as an indispensable aide to first Secretary of State Christopher and then Secretary of State Albright. Both Secretaries relied heavily on Meg in their relations with Capitol Hill, and to help run the State Department.

While her professional accomplishments were extraordinary, I think what most of us will remember about Meg is her always cheerful smile, her infectious laughter, her enthusiasm for life, and her endless energy. Meg was one of those rare people who brought warmth, laughter and joy to so many lives.

I know all of our hearts go out to Meg's husband, her three children, and to all her family.

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of programs funded through the Older Americans Act including congregate meals, home delivered meals and supportive services. These programs are of vital importance to the First Congressional District of Arkansas.

In the ten county area of North Central Arkansas over 100 persons are on the Home Delivered Meal waiting list due to a lack of federal funding. Furthermore, because of a lack of funds, two County Aging Programs consisting of 15 Senior Centers now operate only four days per week.

The Older Americans Act has not received substantial increases in almost a decade—local Senior Centers now have to do fund-raising to provide at least 30 percent of their budgets. Local communities, particularly those in rural areas, can only generate a small portion of the funding needed.

With the expected rise in the older population, the demand for services is expected to double over the next 15 years. An increase in federal funding is urgently needed.

I urge my colleagues to support an 8 percent increase to support the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act contained in H.R. 4344.

OLDEST YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Park Elementary School in Hayward, California, the oldest year-round school in the nation. Over three decades ago, two elementary school principals, Mr. Barney Moura and Dr. Dan Foster, proposed the idea of an all year-round school schedule. In 1968, Park adopted the first single-trick, 200-day school calendar under provisions of a special seven year pilot program approved by the California State Legislature.

Now celebrating its 30th anniversary as a year-round school, Park Elementary has provided a wealth of research and experience to corroborate the original goals of the program. Currently, almost 2 million students in 41 states attend year-round schools and I am proud that Park Elementary has led the way.

Park Elementary not only deserves recognition as the original pioneer for year-round

school, but it should also be acknowledged as the working model for success. Recent studies have demonstrated that student achievement is significantly higher at schools with a single track schedule than their nine-month counterparts.

On November 6, Principal Jeanne Duarte-Armas will join with students and faculty, along with representatives from the Hayward Unified School District, to celebrate Park School's 30th anniversary with an afternoon picnic. I extend my hearty congratulations on their accomplishments and offer my best wishes for continued success. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in honoring those who have helped Park Elementary School reach its 30th year of achievement and excellence.

IN HONOR OF RUSSELL L. HANLIN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Russell L. Hanlin, a man who has had an enormous impact on America's agricultural industry during his illustrious 48-year career. Not only has he been the consummate businessman, but he has served three presidents—and his countrymen—as well.

Mr. Hanlin is retiring soon as President and Chief Executive Officer of Sunkist Growers, Inc., an agricultural marketing cooperative representing more than 6,500 citrus growers in California and Arizona, many of which operate in my home, Ventura County. Mr. Hanlin is the epitome of the American dream, and proof that hard work and perseverance in this great land will carry anyone to the pinnacle they seek. He started with Sunkist as a clerk in 1951. Over the years, he served in several capacities before earning an appointment as a corporate officer. After serving six years as Vice President of the Producers Group, he was elected President and CEO in 1978.

President Bush appointed Mr. Hanlin to the President's Commission on Executive Exchange. Presidents Carter and Reagan both appointed him to the President's Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations, an appointment he held from 1978 to 1984. President Reagan also appointed Mr. Hanlin to the President's Export Council, a post he held for five years.

In 1990, Mr. Hanlin was inducted into the World Trade Hall of Fame.

Mr. Hanlin is past Chairman of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He is a member of the Agricultural Task Force on Japan-U.S. Economic Relations, a member of the U.S./Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Chamber's Agricultural Committee. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Woodbury University, Chairman of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, and Chairman of the Japan America Society of Southern California. In 1996, he was Chairman of World Trade Week.

Mr. Hanlin has won several awards, ranging from the Good Scout Award from the Western Los Angeles County Council, Boy Scouts of America; to the Maple Leaf Award from the Canada-California Chamber of Commerce,

which he earned for promoting understanding between the United States and Canada.

Mr. Hanlin and his wife, Norma, live in Pasadena, California. They have been blessed with three children.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Mr. Hanlin for his many years of promoting and nurturing America's agricultural industry and wish him well in any future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO WALDO PROFITT

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for 37 years, the people of Sarasota, Florida have been lucky to have Waldo Profitt Jr. as Editorial Page Editor of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Waldo provided great journalism with unquestioned integrity and commitment to community service.

Waldo Profitt recently retired from the Herald-Tribune. His reporting and commentary on the social, fiscal, political and public environment of Sarasota County during its fast-paced growth years are a tribute to the finest qualities of a first-class journalist. Waldo was on the front lines on many issues and he never failed to thoroughly investigate, and then critically comment, on what this meant in the big picture.

Long before the mainstream environmental movement, Waldo Profitt educated his readers that environmental protection, resource conservation and local responsibility for community resources were crucial to the preservation of Florida's quality of life and to the State's long-term economic viability and vitality. He emphasized that environmental protection was not about hugging trees, but enhancing and protecting our future.

Anyone in public life would appreciate Waldo's approach to his craft, which rejected attack journalism and recognized that "today's opponent may be tomorrow's ally." His colleagues pay him a high compliment when they say that he taught them that successful journalists need not be mean or unpatriotic. Even those who disagreed with him philosophically, will honestly say, that Waldo "wrote with integrity" and that he was "incisive, fair and balanced."

One of my proudest moments in Congress was when Waldo wrote, "I've been underestimating Dan Miller." Let me tell you, NO ONE has ever underestimated Waldo's ability to quickly humble any public servant in Southwest, Florida. So, his words meant a great deal to me.

For Waldo Profitt, Jr., professional integrity and decency were watchwords. It is a fitting time for us to recognize those qualities in his career and to salute a gentleman who served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. But I want to especially honor Waldo for always taking the courageous path of the highest standards in his chosen field—journalism. My hat goes off to him.

DID TAX AVOIDANCE PLAY A ROLE IN THE FALL OF LONG- TERM CAPITAL?

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the past week, we all read about the gathering of Wall Street's financial giants and their agreement to bail out Long Term Capital Management L.P., which "The Wall Street Journal" has referred to as a "high flying hedge fund that was on the verge of collapse."

After a meeting orchestrated by the Federal Reserve, a group of investment firms and commercial banks agreed to a \$3.5 billion bailout of Long-Term Capital. Without this bailout, Long-Term Capital's \$80 billion balance sheet and additional exposure in the form of off-balance-sheet agreements would have been liquidated. A forced liquidation could have had an adverse impact on worldwide markets.

The financial service industry bears the overwhelming portion of blame. Lenders extended enormous amounts of credit without adequate supervision or knowledge of the activities of the fund.

However, Congress also shares a part of the blame for this debacle. Derivatives have legitimate uses, but they can be used to create excessive levels of leverage by avoiding margin requirements. They have the potential of tax avoidance. Congress was aware of this. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) raised questions earlier this year about the adequacy of supervision of hedge funds. Congress not only chose to ignore the warning of the CFTC, but it pushed legislation that would prohibit the CFTC from proposing new derivatives regulation.

This tax avoidance potential of derivatives did not cause the fall of Long-Term Capital, but it may have added fuel to the fire in the failure. In the fall of 1997, management of Long-Term Capital wanted to increase its stake in the fund. Rather than invest directly, the founder and partners entered into a complex transaction with Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) that gave them \$750 million of equity in the fund through the use of derivatives. According to Derivatives Strategy Special online Report, the management of Long-Term Capital deliberately chose this complex transaction in order to convert foreign interest income from their offshore hedge fund into long-term capital gains and defer it for seven years. Their motivation for this transaction was pure and simple—tax evasion.

Congresswoman KENNELLY was the only one who had the foresight to recognize that the tax avoidance potential of derivatives should have a legislative response. On February 5, 1998, Congresswoman KENNELLY introduced H.R. 3170, legislation which would prevent the use of derivatives to convert ordinary income into long-term capital gain eligible for the 20% capital gain rate. That legislation was aimed at investments in hedge funds through derivatives. The deal that the management of Long-Term Capital entered into with UBS is an example of a transaction that the Kennelly legislation would have shut down.

I commend Congresswoman KENNELLY on her efforts to prohibit transactions that use derivatives for tax avoidance. If this legislation

had been enacted, the motivation for the transaction between the managers of Long-Term Capital and UBS would have not existed.

The rise and fall of Long-Term Capital will be studied by Congress in the upcoming months. I plan on following Congresswoman's KENNELLY lead and to work towards the passage of legislation which addresses the tax avoidance potential of derivatives.

The Kennelly bill affects transactions such as the transaction between the founder and partners of Long-Term Capital and UBS that are not available to the ordinary investor because of their cost. In an economic sense these transactions are equivalent to ownership, but their costs are substantially greater than the costs of a simple purchase.

Congresswoman KENNELLY believes that there is no tax policy justification for giving an investor in a derivative more favorable tax treatment than an investor in an identical underlying product. The Kennelly bill redefines the concept of when there is ownership for tax purposes in order to take into account the economic substance of these new transactions.

I look forward to working on the Kennelly bill and ultimately working towards passage of legislation that addresses the potential tax avoidance of derivatives. Attached is a technical description of the Kennelly legislation.

CONSTRUCTIVE OWNERSHIP TREATMENT

The Kennelly bill would apply to taxpayers who hold constructive ownership positions with respect to any financial property. The legislation would treat gain from constructive ownership positions as long-term gain only to the extent the investor would have received long-term gain treatment if he/she held the underlying asset directly.

The bill would define constructive ownership as any of the following transactions (and any other transaction having substantially the same effect as a transaction described below):

- 1) entering into an offsetting notional principal contract with respect to the same or substantially identical property;
- 2) entering into a futures or forward contract to acquire the same or substantially identical property;
- 3) granting a put and holding a call with respect to the same or substantially identical property and such options have substantially equal strike prices;
- 4) entering into 1 or more than other transactions (or acquiring 1 or more positions) that have substantially the same effect as a transaction described in any of the preceding subparagraphs.

The bill would only apply to financial positions in stock, debt instruments, partnerships and investment trusts held through derivatives. This legislation is not intended to apply to interests held through mutual funds.

A deferred interest charge would apply to constructive ownership transactions in order to recapture the benefits of deferral. The deferred interest charge would be equal to the underpayment of tax rate in Section 6601.

The legislation would be effective for gains recognized after date of enactment.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CIVIL- IAN SPACE PROGRAM

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. civilian space program. I would like to congratulate Administrator Goldin and all of the NASA team of NASA's 40th anniversary. It is a significant milestone, and all of the present and former NASA and contractor employees should feel proud of what our nation's civil space program has accomplished. I believe that space exploration is a noble calling, and one that is worthy of our continued support.

When I celebrate a birthday or anniversary, I like to reflect both on what has come to pass in my life and what might still lie ahead. I think that it is appropriate that we do the same at this juncture in NASA's life as an institution.

It is difficult to know what to say and what to leave out in a statement such as this. I have been interested in our nation's civil space program since its inception, and I have rejoiced at its successes and grieved at its setbacks over the years. I also have tried to play a small part in helping to nurture our space program's growth during my tenure in Congress.

As we try to assess how best to approach America's future in space, I would like to offer some thoughts on ways in which our civil space program has succeeded, as well as ways in which it has fallen short. I hope that those observations may provide useful guideposts for NASA's future.

Where has our civil space program succeeded? I believe that there can be no disputing that the nation's history of excellence in space and Earth science is one of the most gratifying outcomes of the space program's establishment 40 years ago. To say that we have been unlocking the secrets of the universe may be a cliché—but it also is a simple statement of fact. Robotic probes have visited every other planet in our solar system except Pluto. Equally important, we are gaining insights into our own planet and into how human activities affect its systems.

Yet, as the news about the immense burst of gamma-rays and X-rays from deep in space that bathed Earth in radiation last month and disrupted spacecraft operations demonstrates, we also are learning how little we really know about the universe. Nevertheless, we are making advances. From the earliest satellites to the Hubble Space Telescope, the Mars Pathfinder, and beyond, NASA's scientific activities have enriched our stores of knowledge and captured our imaginations. I find it incomprehensible that anyone could seriously assert that NASA has made these space activities "boring."

Another area where I think our space program has succeeded is in the use of space technology to deliver benefits to society. Communications satellites, weather and remote sensing satellites, technologies for health care and industrial competitiveness, and so forth—all of these have improved the quality of our lives. Yet I strongly believe that we can do more to harvest the potential of space to help

people in America and around the world to live better lives. We dare not walk away from that responsibility.

Another development that has been gratifying to me has been the emergency—allbeit somewhat unevenly—of a healthy and growing commercial space sector. Can anyone dispute the importance of commercial satellite communications to the world's economy, both directly and indirectly? I expect to see similar developments in commercial remote sensing, launch services, and in areas we do not even contemplate at present.

Yet, a world with a large, global commercial space sector offers challenges to policymakers. I would gently note that those who argue for unleashing the private sector to commercialize space on a global scale should not then attempt to demonize companies for pursuing their interests globally. Loose allegations of unpatriotic behavior against American companies are not helpful as we attempt to sort out the complex issues associated with commerce in a multipolar world.

Next, I must say that I consider one of NASA's finest achievements to have been its continued adherence to the principle that "activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind." NASA has made international cooperation an integral part of its mission, and I think it has paid dividends to our nation over the past four decades. As I testified to the House space subcommittee fifteen years ago on NASA's 25th anniversary:

"We have tended to cut back on these activities when budgets are tight, or when we get nervous about technology transfer to other nations. My view is that international cooperation serves many functions and is important to support; political, scientific, and economic benefits can be derived from international cooperation."

I continue to stand by those sentiments.

Before I close, I must confess that I have been disappointed by what we have not accomplished in our space program since its inception. Among my frustrations is our sorry record in the development of low-cost space transportation. For too long, we have seen advances in transportation come in fits and starts, instead of being an integral part of the space agency's R&D portfolio. That approach has seriously impeded the progress of our nation in space exploration and utilization. I believe that we are making some improvements in our approach to developing new transportation systems; however, we must not go overboard in the other direction and make our programs dependent on the delivery of revolutionary advances by a date certain. Innovation does not work that way—especially under constrained budgets.

Speaking of budgets, those who know me know that I long have been troubled by the nation's inconsistent support of our civil space program. Both Congress and the White House have at various times over the last forty years, wreaked havoc on NASA's ability to make and carry out long-range plans. While some have argued that there is no long-term vision or plan for NASA, I would submit that over the years there have been no lack of plans, studies, and recommendations both from the space agency and from distinguished panels of outside experts—my files are filled with them! Rather, the nation—and I most definitely include Congress in this criticism—has been

unable or unwilling to establish institutional mechanisms for providing a stable budgetary and programmatic framework in which long-term (i.e., over multiple Administrations and Congresses)—and possibly multinational—R&D initiatives can be carried out successfully. Until we address that situation, I am not optimistic that we will be able to achieve many of the ambitious goals that NASA is contemplating for the 21st century.

One of those goals, of course, is human exploration beyond low Earth orbit. I believe that this is one of the areas in which we have fallen most short, to my intense disappointment. I still consider it extremely short-sighted for the Nixon Administration to have canceled the nation's program of lunar exploration just as it was transitioning from an amazing technological and managerial achievement to a sustained program of scientific and human exploration.

Then, when President Reagan approved the development of a Space Station in 1984, I never would have believed that almost fifteen years later we still would not have launched even the first elements of the Station into orbit. Still, there are no easy villains in the Space Station saga—as much as some would like to find them. The simple truth is that NASA, successive Congresses, and successive Administrations all have had their fingerprints on this program, and any blame for the slow progress of this program needs to be shared. At the same time, all of us will have to now work together for this program to be completed successfully.

However, I would like to look forward to the future of human space exploration and not just dwell on past missteps. There are no lack of worthy goals for human exploration. Those goals need to be a fundamental part of our vision for NASA's future.

While there is more that I could say, I will conclude my statement on that note. I have offered these observations with the intention of stimulating some discussion on how best to proceed as our space program enters the 21st century. We must learn from our past if we are to avoid becoming captive to our past.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL
ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL
STAGE EMPLOYEES LOCAL
UNION 51 OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local Union 51 as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary on February 23, 1999. Local 51, which is an integral part of Houston's highly successful arts community, will celebrate with a Gala Program in the Brown Theater of the Wortham Theater Center in Houston, Texas.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Pictures Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States and Canada (I.A.), which began in 1893, represents people behind the scenes in the manifold media of show business and exhibitions. Today, there are over 800 local unions throughout the United States and Can-

ada. The local chapter of the Galveston-Houston Theatrical Stage Employees Protective Union was chartered on May 1, 1899. Houston's own Local 51 broke away from that larger group and is today the only stage crafts union in Harris County. In the early part of this century, members of Local 51 set up the traveling vaudeville shows and performances by touring companies that came to the Bayou City first by train, later by truck. Local 51 even supplied the personnel for the backstage work at the downtown movie houses. By the time Houston's major arts organizations presented their first performances, the Local was already in place to provide professional, behind-the-scenes service.

Every stage craft is practiced by these dedicated men and women, making each a valuable link in the production of any show. From the moment a production or meeting is conceived until the last truck pulls away, I.A. technicians are on the job. Today, Local 51 boasts a work roster of over 400 technicians and can fill a producer's or promoter's crew needs with only one telephone call. The local provides a network of qualified technicians for projects of any magnitude.

The members of Local 51 are known and respected worldwide for the quality of the work they provide. They have traveled from China to Singapore to Cairo and throughout the United States with the road tours of hits such as "Phantom of the Opera", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "State Fair", "Carousel", and with David Copperfield. The talents of Local 51 are not limited to the stage. The local has provided convention and exhibit support for several local audio visual companies and in every major hotel and meeting facility in Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Local Union 51 as they celebrate this special time in their history, and extend to all members my personal appreciation for their contributions to the arts in Houston.

ASSESSING TAX CUTS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Friday, October 2, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ASSESSING TAX CUTS

With the new congressional session approaching and a projected \$1.6 trillion surplus in the U.S. Treasury over the next ten years, it is not surprising to see Washington politicians crafting and talking about tax cuts which will appeal to constituents. People will naturally be eyeing the several proposals to determine how they affect their own pocketbook. That is an entirely appropriate perspective, but people ought also to be looking at another question: What impact will the tax proposals have on the distribution of income and wealth in the country?

Broad income trends: Tax proposals need to be assessed in light of two broad trends in our country—the widening income gap between the haves and the have nots, and the difficulty middle-class families have had in improving their status despite the current economic boom.

There is not much doubt but that the gap between the nation's poorest and richest workers has widened. Adjusted for inflation,

the incomes of the poorest fifth of working families dropped by 21% between 1979 and 1995, while the incomes of the richest fifth jumped by 30% during the same time period. So during both good times and bad the gap has grown. Most economists think that a principal reason for the widening gap is technology. Other factors are the erosion over several years of the minimum wage, international trade, the decline of unionization, and immigration. So while the new technologies are creating growth in the economy and new opportunities, they are also increasing economic inequalities and sharpening social divisions.

In the last few years, lower-income workers have gotten some help from the strong economy and from the 90 cent an hour increase in the minimum wage in 1996. Yet middle-class members overall have not done as well in the race to improve their incomes. At the top and the bottom of the economic ladder, wages have risen briskly but in the middle they have risen more slowly. Computers, technology, and imports have diluted the demand for medium-skilled workers, and corporate downsizing has made middle-income people feel less secure in their jobs and more reluctant to push for wage increases.

The middle class today is not complaining too visibly because their pay has gone up faster than the inflation rate over the last two years, even if the increase is not as great as the one by lower- and upper-income workers. But the longer the expansion of the economy lasts, the more people will begin to understand their position in the total economy and the less happy they will be. If a recession occurs and the trends continue they will become quite angry.

Policy choices: There is no shortage of answers to this widening income gap. The best medicine may be steady economic growth and the extraordinarily low unemployment rates we have today that can help push workers' hourly wages up. But several other steps have been proposed. Some people want to remove regulatory barriers, improve school systems, and expand programs to improve workers' skills. Others want to concentrate on tougher trade rules, better anti-poverty programs, and strong labor protections. We need to create and keep good high-wage jobs.

But it seems to me that we also need to consider carefully the impact of any proposed federal tax cuts. Tax policy should recognize the need to improve the lot of moderate-income working Americans. At a minimum it shouldn't worsen the income gap by giving the most benefits to those already very well off.

The income trends in the American economy are disquieting. The scale of the problem and the dearth of solutions add up to difficult political challenges ahead in the not too distant future. Historically tax policy has helped keep inequality from going too far. Too much inequality almost certainly leads to making societies unstable. There may be little risk of instability at this point, but nonetheless the broader question of the impact of tax cut proposals on the distribution of income and the wealth in society should not be ignored.

House proposal: The main tax cut currently being considered in Congress is a House proposal to cut \$80 billion over the next five years. The biggest tax cuts in the package—accounting for three-fourths of its total cost—would provide "marriage penalty" tax relief to two-income married couples whose tax liability is higher than if they were single; expand the amount of interest and dividends excluded from income taxes; and move up the date for exempting from taxation estates worth up to \$1 million.

This proposal faces problems in the Senate and a likely Presidential veto because it

spends money that we don't have. 98% of the projected overall budget surplus is due to the temporary surplus being built up in Social Security in order to help cushion the blow when the baby boomers retire. For now and the next several years the budget is in deficit, other than Social Security. If it were not for Social Security, the federal budget would have an estimated deficit of \$137 billion over the next five years.

Looking at the tax cut bill's impact on the income gap, it has some reasonable provisions, and it is certainly tilted far less toward the wealthy than other recent House-passed tax bills. But it is still not what we would propose if one of our primary concerns was looking out for moderate-income people. For example, it does nothing to address Social Security payroll taxes, even though most lower and middle-income workers pay more in Social Security taxes than they pay in federal income taxes. And several of its provisions—such as its tax relief for million-dollar estates—benefit primarily upper-income Americans. Overall, the changes in this tax bill would make the tax system less progressive.

Conclusion: It is inevitable that we will be hearing more proposals to cut income taxes in the days and months ahead. There are many ways to assess proposed tax cuts. But the increasing income gap in America suggests to me that it may be time for us to ask what they mean for the country, not just for each of us as individuals. That's not an easy question to answer, but in light of recent economic trends it appears to me to be an important factor in making a judgment on tax cuts.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH M. MCDADE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to JOSEPH MCDADE—a distinguished member of this body who will retire at the end of the session.

The House of Representatives will lose a great Member of Congress when Representative MCDADE retires. Mr. MCDADE has represented both his constituents and the United States well and faithfully since he was first elected 36 years ago.

Mr. MCDADE began his career in politics as the Solicitor of the City of Scranton. This experience, along with his degree in law from the University of Scranton, provided him with an excellent foundation for becoming a Member of Congress.

JOSEPH MCDADE was first elected to the House in 1962. Since then, he has worked hard to protect the environment, keep military bases open in his district, and help Americans buy homes. Today, he has served longer in Congress than any other Republican and longer than all but two Democrats.

Mr. MCDADE has served for many years as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. He is also Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security (formerly Defense) and is a member on the Subcommittee on the Interior. He also served on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Housing and Urban Development,

and he was the most-senior Republican on the Small Business Committee, of which he was a member from 1978 to 1991.

Representative MCDADE has been the ranking Republican on the Defense Subcommittee since 1985. On this subcommittee, he helped to craft much of the annual defense and national security legislation during the final years of the Cold War. His emphasis throughout his tenure on the Defense Subcommittee has been on military programs that stress a high-quality force that is trained and ready for combat. He also was instrumental in keeping the region's largest employer, the Tobyhanna Army Depot, open during the periods of base closures in 1991, 1993, and 1995.

Mr. MCDADE, through his seat on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, has led the charge in addressing nation's energy problems and has fought to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. He was invaluable in establishing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, and the Fishery Laboratory in Wellsboro. From this position, he has also helped to enact major clean air and water legislation. Representative MCDADE was honored for these and other efforts by the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Over the years, Mr. MCDADE has also pushed for community rehabilitation and development, promoted housing for the elderly, handicapped and low-income families, and in 1990, led the effort to enact the Housing Guaranteed Loan program enacted into law. This program will help more than 50,000 low- and moderate-income Americans buy homes this year. Congressman MCDADE also drafted measures to help stimulate and protect small companies in his time on the Small Business Committee.

His work with many philanthropic organizations, including the Kennedy Center and the National Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., are evidence of his strong commitment to the arts. He is also committed to education, as his trusteeships at both the University of Scranton and Keystone College both indicate.

Congressman MCDADE has had an active career in the United States House of Representatives. He has helped to pass many significant pieces of legislation and will not soon be forgotten by friends and colleagues on either side of the aisle.

JOE, you will be sorely missed in the House. We are going to miss your dedication, your intelligence, and your experience. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAWKINS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William Hawkins. On October 20, 1998 in St. Louis, Missouri, National Industries for the Blind will honor Mr. Hawkins with the first annual Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award, named for the late Milton J. Samuelson in recognition of his leadership for upward mobility and placement programs for people who are blind.

Mr. Hawkins was diagnosed with progressive glaucoma and cataracts soon after birth.

Before his third birthday he had lost all of his sight, but the challenge of his blindness did not prevent Mr. Hawkins from striving for excellence. With the help of his grandparents who raised him, he achieved an impressive record of success in his youth. He graduated from high school in 1983 as valedictorian, student body president, and scholar athlete.

Following high school, Mr. Hawkins attended college at night while he worked as a successful insurance sales agent and for the Alphapointe Association for the Blind. Although his college career ended after marriage and the birth of his daughter, he continued to set and achieve meaningful goals for himself. He accepted a part time position as a telemarketer with United Missouri Bank (UMB), and within the next two years was promoted by UMB several times. Mr. Hawkins is currently a valued member of UMB management, and has assisted other people who are blind with securing employment at UMB. I applaud him for both his personal achievements and for his generosity to others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this admirable American upon being the first person to be honored with this prestigious award.

HONORING PHI DELTA KAPPA FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you today to honor the Southern Connecticut State University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa on their twenty-fifth anniversary. Phi Delta Kappa members provide a variety of services to promote and improve education in our community.

Members of this successful international organization are Connecticut educators who are continually active in the education arena and dedicated to the ideals of service, research, and leadership. They are teachers, principals, administrators and superintendents—people who are with kids every day, who have given their all to ensuring that our children have the best start in life.

On October 3, 1973, one hundred and twenty charter members were initiated into the newly formed chapter of Phi Delta Kappa at Southern Connecticut State University. Twenty-five years later, I am proud to say, this chapter has grown to nearly five hundred members strong. It is these individuals, and all that they contribute, which make the Connecticut school system a success. Membership in this fraternity is recognition of the contributions to education made by our educators. I commend the members of the Southern Connecticut State University Chapter for all the work they have done in order to guarantee that our children will develop the skills they will need to build a successful future.

On behalf of the parents, students, and the residents of Connecticut, I thank you for your good work. It is for twenty-five years of dedicated and distinguished service of all members of the Southern Connecticut State University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa that I am proud to stand and recognize their achievements today.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANALAPAN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Manalapan Township, New Jersey as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

The word "Manalapan" means "land that produces good bread" in the language of the Leni Lenape Indians who were the first to inhabit the town. Another group of early settlers to Manalapan were farmers who were attracted to the area's rich soil and clear, running brooks. Some of these farms still exist today, having been handed down from one generation to the next.

The Battle of Monmouth, an important battle during our nation's War for Independence, was fought in Manalapan. The landmark, Old Tenent Church, still an active congregation, served as a temporary hospital for the war's wounded, while its cemetery serves as a final resting place for those who died. Our nation's battle for independence is commemorated in the township's Battleground Park, a recreation area for township residents and those who visit this beautiful area of central New Jersey.

Over the past 150 years, Manalapan has grown from a rural, farming community to one of over 27,000 residents. It boasts a strong educational system, many parks and recreation facilities and a close-knit community atmosphere. Manalapan is a major reason why Monmouth County, New Jersey was voted the third best place to live in the United States by *Money Magazine*.

I wish to commend the Township Committee and all of the people of Manalapan on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to have this great township within the borders of the twelfth congressional district.

INTRODUCTION OF SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the American economy is moving quickly from one dominated by large corporations to one whose growth is fueled by emerging entrepreneurial high-growth companies. Entrepreneurial companies are today's leaders in job creation, technological innovation, and international competitiveness. America's future economic well-being lies in the hands of today's emerging companies and the central organizing principle for our nation's economic policy should be entrepreneurship.

Over the course of many years, a complex fabric of public policies have created the environment in which entrepreneurial firms compete. Due to the fact that the public policy needs of this community have not been articulated in a united fashion or widely understood by policy makers, however, the basic "building blocks" used to enhance economic growth have not been properly constructed. I rise

today to begin to lay the foundation for this policy and ensure that the engine that drives this economy has access to the fuel it needs to thrive: capital.

Entrepreneurs are synonymous with jobs. Between 1980 and 1990, U.S. private sector employment grew by 19 million jobs, but employment in the Fortune 500 firms dropped by three million jobs. In other words, job creation outside of the Fortune 500 companies rose by 22 million. By creating an environment for entrepreneurship to thrive, we also ensure that "spin off" companies develop to foster even greater job creation and technological development. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the biotechnology and computer industries that have grown up in my home state of Washington.

The bill I am introducing today will ensure that these new capital-intensive small businesses will have the money they need to create innovative technologies and create jobs. By raising the Section 1202 definition of small business from \$50 million to \$300 million and raising the capital gains exclusion from 50% to 75%, we can create a climate in which individual investors are rewarded for their risky investment and entrepreneurs have the tools they need to succeed.

Capital gains taxes are one of the nation's primary obstacles to job creation and technological innovation. Anything to reduce the effective or actual rate on capital gains taxes will help put more money in the hands of our nation's most enterprising citizens and lift the standard of living for everyone. In addition, this proposal is completely consistent with Speaker GINGRICH's effort, of which I am a supporter, to reduce the broad-based capital gains rate to 15%.

Over the course of the next two years, I expect a healthy debate over tax policy. It is my hope that this bill will put the primary focus of this debate where it ought to be: removing incentives to economic freedom and entrepreneurship.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTEN GRACZYK

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, Kristen Graczyk is a constituent of mine. Although she is not old enough to vote, the lesson she has learned and taught to students and adults make her wise beyond her years. A 15-year-old soccer star at La Cueva High School, Kristen has been called the Mia Hamm of New Mexico soccer. As a sophomore she has scored 20 goals in the first six games for one of the best high school soccer teams in the Nation.

And then, before the Homecoming dance, she got drunk. At the dance she was pulled off the dance floor by principal Sam Soto, her parents were called and she was kicked off the soccer team. In these times, the story might have been that she found a lawyer and fought the suspension all the way to the Supreme Court. But Kristen did something different. She wrote a letter to her team and all of the media outlets in Albuquerque.

In the letter she takes responsibility for her actions and warns other children about the effects of alcohol and encourages them not to

drink. She further said that she has let down her parents and her team and lost what meant the world to her; being part of the La Cueva women's soccer team. Kristen feels that this will make her a stronger person and a stronger player next year.

Kristen has made all of us stronger. She has taught all of us who have heard about her efforts about admitting your mistakes, taking responsibility for your actions, and apologizing when you are wrong. This year, Kristen is going to go to the soccer games and cheer for her teammates. Next year, she will be back on the team. A little older, a little wiser, and respected not only for her talent, but for her character.

YEAR 2000 INFORMATION AND READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2392, the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act.

This important piece of bipartisan legislation will encourage sharing of Y2K solutions by protecting businesses on the Central Coast of California and throughout the Nation from liability when they share Y2K technologies in good faith.

As an original cosponsor of similar legislation, HR 4355, I believe that the bill before us today will increase the flow of technical data on solutions to this difficult problem.

In communities across the nation we could be facing widespread economic disruption and inconvenience if the problems that the Year 2000 presents are not adequately addressed.

In my district, I am working hard to make sure that federal Y2K resources are available to small businesses and community leaders. We simply must raise the national consciousness on the Y2K problem before it is too late.

This bill is a positive step in that effort and I urge all Members to support it.

YEAR 2000 INFORMATION AND READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, over 2½ years ago, my Technology Subcommittee first began our review of the Year 2000 problem and discovered that the fear of potential legal liability created a disturbing chilling effect that froze private industry from sharing important Y2K information with each other and with the American public.

As a result, instead of working together on an industry-wide basis to craft common solutions to expedite effective Year 2000 assessment, remediation, and validation efforts, many companies have simply chosen to not publicly discuss their Y2K situation. With just 450 days before January 1, 2000, clearly this needs to change. In the short time remaining,

we must foster a climate of greater collaboration and not one of silence and uncooperation.

That is why passage of S. 2392, the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act, the bill we passed late last night, is so very important. As the Co-Chair of the House Year 2000 Task Force and the Chair of the Technology Subcommittee, I was very pleased to be an original House sponsor of the bill, to help address some of the industry concerns in the original version of the bill, and to work towards its enactment.

Mr. Speaker, in one of the series of Year 2000 hearings conducted by my Technology Subcommittee, witnesses testified that the risk of failure and its liability consequences, including both punitive and compensatory damages, has created a large Year 2000 cottage industry for lawyers waiting to file suits. Some are even speculating that the cost of legal damages could ultimately exceed the total cost for actually fixing the Year 2000 problem.

It should then come as no surprise that certain industries have refused to acknowledge or share Year 2000 information for fear that such disclosure could ultimately leave them vulnerable to negligence and warranty suits. Many companies have resisted exchanging technical advice with one another, delaying the pace of repair work, because they fear costly litigation if the information they provide inadvertently turns out to be inaccurate.

The goal of S. 2392 is to encourage the widest possible dissemination of Y2K information so that organizations can move effectively to remediation by immunizing businesses from lawsuits if they share information about the problem. By incorporating certain provisions of H.R. 4455, the Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Act, of which I am also an original sponsor, into S. 2392 the private-sector should now have the legal protection needed to share Y2K information.

The current language in the bill reflects changes to accommodate the concern of a number of industries that the original bill was crafted too narrowly and did not go far enough to achieve its stated goal. For example, the bill as originally introduced only protected companies from liability lawsuits based on unknowingly false Year 2000 information disclosures.

Many companies, however, feared that their accurate Y2K statements would be used against them as evidence in liability lawsuits. S. 2392, as amended in the Senate, addresses the full range of concerns regarding Y2K information-sharing by permitting private-sector entities to release "Year 2000 Information Disclosures," as contained in H.R. 4455. Accurate information in these written, labeled statements would be protected from use in any civil litigation related to Y2K failures.

Mr. Speaker, while S. 2392 is narrowly tailored to just the issue of information exchange and does not affect the greater liability questions, I believe that we must fully explore the legal liability issues and discuss the policy implications of creating liability caps, safe harbors, immunity protection, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, among other provisions, in the near future.

While I look forward to engaging in this debate in the upcoming 106th Congress, addressing legal liability will not be an easy task. We must continue to encourage all businesses to devote their full resources and commitment to solving the Year 2000 problem, and not to sit around in expectation of enacted legislation

which has the potential of unburdening them from taking any corrective action. If we are to eventually enact liability legislation, we should not be providing companies an easy out for failing to engaging in Y2K remediation in a timely and effective manner.

It concerns me that the legal battles have already begun. A Michigan grocery store is suing the manufacturer of its cash registers because the machines reject credit cards with year 2000 expiration dates. Several software companies are facing lawsuits for breach of warranty, fraud, and unfair business practices because they charge clients for the upgrades necessary to correct the millennium bug. According to the Gartner Group, some 200 disputes have already been settled out of court across the country.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2392 is a necessary first step in the congressional review of Year 2000 liability issue and will play a significant role in helping the private sector in addressing the Year 2000 computer problem. I am pleased to support its enactment and I look forward to its signature into law by the President.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, a number of studies have concluded that many older Americans pay high prices for their prescription drugs. Senior citizens across the country are becoming increasingly concerned about their ability to afford medications that are necessary to maintaining good health. It has even been reported that more than one in eight older Americans has been forced to choose between buying food and buying medicine.

At the request of my colleague, Rep. JIM TURNER, the Minority staff of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee conducted several studies to determine why older Americans pay high prices for prescription drugs. Their findings are disturbing:

They uncovered a "discriminatory pricing" scheme whereby senior citizens pay, on average, over twice as much for prescription drugs as the drug manufacturers' most favored customers—such as large insurance companies, hospital chains and the Federal government. Specifically, corporate and institutional customers with market power are able to buy their drugs at discounted prices—however, prices are raised for sales to seniors and others who pay for needed prescriptions themselves in order to compensate for the discounts offered to favored customers.

The average price differential among the 10 drugs studied between what seniors pay and what favored customers pay is five times what it is for other consumer products.

This practice allows the drug industry to amass large profits at the expense of those who are least able to afford it—older Americans. Although the elderly have the greatest need for prescription drugs, they often have the most inadequate insurance coverage for the cost of these drugs. Medicare does not cover the cost of most prescription drugs, and

supplemental "Medigap" policies are often prohibitively expensive or limited in their coverage. Furthermore, a 1996 AARP survey indicated that 37% of older Americans do not have insurance coverage for prescription drugs. As a result, many senior citizens—a large portion of whom live on a fixed income—are forced to pay the full, out-of-pocket expense of prescription drugs.

The problem is clear: drug manufacturers are selling drugs to their favored customers at drastically reduced prices while not passing along those same savings to retail pharmacies and senior citizens. HR 4646, the "Prescription Drug Fairness Act", addresses this problem by giving every Medicare-eligible person a prescription drug card that they can take to their pharmacy and use to purchase prescription drugs at the same prices enjoyed by the drug manufacturers' favored customers.

The bill accomplishes this by allowing local pharmacies to purchase drugs used by senior citizens from the General Services Administration (GSA) of the Federal government. Since the GSA is one of the entities able to purchase prescription medication at much lower prices, pharmacists will be able to pass on significant savings to our senior citizens.

This is smart legislation that will save Medicare dollars by allowing seniors to get the medications they need to stay healthy. But more importantly, this is an effective approach to the problem of discriminatory pricing that will improve the quality of life for our senior citizens. I believe this bill will save lives and promote the personal financial stability of older Americans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4646.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN DAVIDSON

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to honor a young woman from Butler, Pennsylvania, who has shown remarkable integrity and determination. She is Miss Susan Davidson, America's 1998 Junior Miss.

The 1998 Butler High School graduate is the first Miss Pennsylvania Junior Miss from Butler, Pennsylvania to win the national title. Susan Davidson is a straight A student as well as an accomplished pianist who practices four hours a day. In fact, she demonstrated her tremendous musical talents by placing in the top four in the creative and performing arts category with her moving performance of "Toccatina" by Khachaturian. She also won a scholastic achievement award and took first place in the presence and composure category. Susan's dedication to her goals has become her trademark. She works hard to achieve her dreams.

At Butler High School, Susan was a member of National Honor Society. She also played the French Horn in Butler High School's marching band and participated in the 1996 Governors School for the Arts, the 1997 All-State Chorus, as well as Regional Band and Regional Orchestra. Last year, she was the Butler County 1997 Fair Queen.

Miss Davidson best described her achievements when she said, "(Being a Junior Miss)

doesn't make you something that you aren't. The title rewards you for who you are, for what you have inside." Well Susan, I could not agree with you more. Congratulations on your accomplishments. You are an inspiration to us all.

HEDGE FUND BAILOUT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve orchestrated bailout of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management LP raises serious policy questions. At one point, the notional value of the Cayman Island-registered fund's derivatives totalled about \$1.2 trillion. We should look seriously at this issue because of the taxpayer-backed liability concerns raised by the involvement of an agency with the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. The state of Michigan has taken a constructive first step regarding the public policy concerns of derivatives. I urge us to consider the wisdom of the State Representative Greg Kaza as we debate this issue.

STATEMENT OF HON. GREG KAZA, MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF FINANCE, WALSH COLLEGE

Derivatives are financial instruments broadly defined as any contract or convertible security that changes in value in concert with a related or underlying security, fixed-income instrument, future or other instrument, currency or index; or that obtains much of its value from price movements in a related or underlying instrument; or an option, swap, warrant, or debt instrument with one or more options embedded in or attached to it, the value of which contract or security is determined in whole or in part by the price of one or more underlying instruments or markets.

Although derivatives are a relatively recent development in financial markets, their use by corporations, pension and mutual funds, financial institutions, governments and those involved in money management are clearly ascendant, according to the Federal Reserve and other federal agencies. The issue is not whether the government should ban or in some way restrict the prudent use of derivatives to hedge risk. Rather, the issue is one of disclosure, i.e., how best to provide increased transparency as our complex international financial system enters the 21st Century.

Three years ago I addressed the very same issue in Michigan by authoring state legislation that provided increased transparency by requiring units of government to disclose their derivative holdings to the public. Government units have to make investment decisions regarding the money they receive or retain; unfortunately, investment practices and decisions can sometimes lead to significant losses when taxdollars are unwisely invested in derivatives. Orange County in California and Independence Township in Oakland County, Michigan are both examples of government units that experienced significant losses as a result of the imprudent use of derivatives.

Initially, some of my colleagues wondered whether a ban or restriction on the use of derivatives would be preferable. But committee testimony soon convinced them that derivatives, although complex, are used by many institutions, including government pension

funds, to prudently hedge risk. Our five-bill package required public disclosure of derivative holdings by government units. The legislation garnered bi-partisan sponsorship and support, and ultimately became state law.

A related issue that we discussed privately at the time was whether the potential for moral hazard created by federal deposit insurance means private financial institutions should be required to disclose their derivative holdings in the interest of transparency. You are now likely to contemplate this issue yourselves given events surrounding the hedge fund in question, Long-Term Capital Management; and the potential for systemic risk posed by any future episode that might involve the imprudent use of derivatives and excessive amounts of leverage.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WCVE-FM

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor WCVE-FM (88.9 FM), a public radio station in my home town of Richmond. The station celebrated its ten year anniversary this year. I was glad to be a part of the WCVE-FM's opening ten years ago and I am proud to honor the station today.

WCVE attracts 96,000 listeners per week. There's nothing else like it on the radio dial in central Virginia. Listeners can tune into a diverse selection of unique music and unduplicated programming including classical music, jazz, National Public Radio (NPR), news magazines, and specialty programming.

One of WCVE's unique programs is Gallery, a local production that highlights the wealth of fine arts and humanities activities in Richmond. Each week, Gallery features interviews with members of the museum, performing arts and literary communities. WCVE's broadcasts of the Virginia Opera and the Richmond Symphony performances provide Richmonders with a wonderful cultural opportunity. The performances are enhanced with in-depth interviews with symphony and opera personnel—adding context and a better understanding to the performances for all the listeners.

In addition to cultural offerings, the station provides a variety of public affairs programs. Every winter WCVE-FM airs daily state legislature reports from the State capital. Throughout the year the station records and broadcasts speeches delivered to the World Affairs Council of Greater Richmond. These programs feature comments from foreign policy decision makers from all over the world on current international policy issues.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the valuable service WCVE has provided to the citizens of my community in the past 10 years. In the past decade it has established itself as central Virginia's fine arts radio station. I appreciate WCVE's thoughtful discussion on a wide range of serious issues affecting the city of Richmond, the state and the world. I congratulate Charlie Sydnor, President of Central Virginia Educational Telecommunications Corporation, and station manager Bill Miller. I wish WCVE continued success.

YEAR 2000 ACT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Year 2000 Act. While most people are aware of the Year 2000 computer problem, I have consistently been struck by the lack of specific information on the exact nature and magnitude of the problem.

The Subcommittee on Technology, of which I am the Ranking Member, has taken the lead in holding hearings on the Y2K issue. We have spent a lot of time reviewing Federal efforts and promoting the free flow of information on the Y2K problem. However, there has been several gaps in our Y2K efforts, and the intent of this legislation is to fill these gaps.

This bill has four very specific goals: 1) to raise consumer awareness and create a consumer Y2K checklist; 2) to raise Y2K awareness in small and medium sized businesses and create a Y2K self-assessment checklist for the nation's small and medium-sized companies; 3) to require Federal agencies that have worked with outside entities to ensure that all date sensitive data exchanges are Year 2000 compliant; and 4) to require the Secretary of Commerce to report to Congress on the economic implications of a global Y2K problem.

Other than federal agencies, we have been given little more than anecdotal evidence and generalities regarding the total effect of the Year 2000 computer problem. However, there is general agreement that computer hardware and software, as well as embedded microchips found in many consumer products, could fail after January 1, 2000.

More importantly, I find that many people do not know how Y2K will impact them, nor do they know what specific actions they can take to minimize the impact of the Y2K problem on their everyday lives. This bill requires the Undersecretary for Technology at the Department of Commerce to develop a Year 2000 self-assessment checklist for consumers; provide a list of all federal government Year 2000 computer problem resources; list all GSA approved Year 2000 compliant products; and conduct a series of public awareness announcements and seminars on the impact of the Y2K problem on consumer products and services. These goals are consistent with the recommendations made by witnesses who have appeared before the Subcommittee on Technology, and I am confident that with the right information, consumers will be able to make those decisions necessary to minimize the disruption the Y2K computer problem.

The situation at small and medium-sized businesses mirrors that of consumers. The nation's more than 381,000 small- and medium-sized manufacturers contribute more than half of the country's total value in manufacturing. However, as of 1997, 88% of all companies with fewer than 2000 employees had not yet started Year 2000 remediation projects.

Small and medium-sized companies are an integral part of the business supply chain, becoming increasingly reliant on computer applications for manufacturing operations, accounting and billing practices, and meeting just-in-time order and delivery concepts. To assist our small and medium-sized manufacturers in

meeting the Y2K challenge, this bill requires that the National Institute of Standards and Technology's highly successful Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, working with the Small Business Administration, identify the best practices to attack the problem, develop a Year 2000 self-assessment checklist, and list all federal government Y2K resources including the General Services listing of approved Y2K compliant products.

Federal agencies make thousands of date sensitive data exchanges every day. These data exchanges include social security and Medicare information, information related to the air traffic control system, and important financial transactions. Consequently, as federal computer systems are converted to process year 2000 dates, the associated data exchanges must also be made Year 2000 compliant.

The testing and implementation of Year 2000 compliant data exchanges must be closely coordinated with exchange partners. Agencies must not only test its own software, but effective testing includes end-to-end testing, and agreed upon date formats with all exchange partners. If these Year 2000 data exchanges do not function properly, data will not be exchanged between systems or invalid data could cause receiving computer systems to malfunction. In other words, regardless of federal efforts to fix its own computer systems, unless their data exchange partners have Y2K compliant systems, the computer network as a whole will fail.

A recent GAO report entitled "Year 2000 Computing Crisis: Actions Needed on Electronic Data Exchanges" found that federal agencies have made little progress in addressing this data exchange issues. This legislation is based on these specific GAO recommendations, and will help ensure that federal agencies fully address the data exchange issue. This legislation also requires agencies to establish a test schedule with data exchange partners, notify exchange partners of the implications and consequences of non-compliance, develop contingency plans, and send a quarterly report to Congress outlining their progress.

Finally, this bill requires the Secretary of Commerce to report to Congress on the international implications of the Y2K problem, and outline the potential impact on the U.S. economy. Again, we lack specific information on how other countries are addressing the Y2K issue, and the international implications are truly profound. Disruptions in international financial services, international air travel, international telecommunications, and international commercial transactions are all possible scenarios.

However, it is near impossible to make contingency plans in the face of so little and often inadequate information. And as I mentioned earlier, it is lack of information that leads to panic and uncertainty. I believe that such an international assessment could be a guide post for federal and private sector actions.

With so much to be done before January 1, 2000, there isn't much time to act. While we can't legislate Y2K compliance, we must ensure the availability of good information so that consumers and small businesses are able to check existing products, make sure their equipment will work with other equipment, and most importantly, successfully address any Y2K problems in their operations.

With this information in hand, I believe that the public and Congress will be able to make the right decisions and avoid the panic which is so often predicted in articles about the Y2K computer crisis.

I urge co-sponsorship of this legislation, as well as its swift passage.

RAPE OF NUNS IN INDIA MUST BE INVESTIGATED**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was very distressed to learn from Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, of the rape of four nuns in the Madhya Pradesh state of India. According to published reports, a gang of armed men forced their way into a Christy Jyoti Convent School, vandalized school property, and raped and terrorized the nuns.

This terrible incident shows that it is not safe to be a member of a religious minority in Hindu India. Christian groups have reported a spate of attacks on members of the minority community since a Hindu nationalist-led coalition took office in New Delhi six months ago. The Indian government seems to have little interest in protecting the rights of religious minorities, whether Sikh, Christian, Muslim, or other. India's claims of secularism and democracy are suspect.

The rapes were reported to India's National Commission on Minorities, which referred the incident to the National Human Rights Commission. America will be watching closely to see how the Indian Government handles it.

All who love freedom must condemn this terrible incident. This offers one more reason for American taxpayers to be wary of supporting the questionable Indian government. We must maintain pressure on India until all the people of South Asia are free. We must support self-determination for all states throughout the subcontinent, including a free and fair vote in Punjab, Kashmir.

I am placing the Council of Khalistan's press release and articles on the rape into the RECORD.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Sept. 28, 1998]

FOUR NUNS RAPED IN INDIA

WASHINGTON.—Four nuns were raped in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh on September 23. The case was sent to the National Commission on Minorities, which referred it to the National Human Rights Commission.

"This rape was designed to threaten religious minorities and prevent anyone from objecting to the repression India practices against its religious and ethnic minorities," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland declared independent on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikh Nation's peaceful, democratic, non-violent movement for independence.

"Such ghastly crimes are a disgrace for the nation and make us hang our heads in shame," said Tahir Mahmood, chairman of the National Commission on Minorities.

"On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I extend our deepest sympathies to India's Christians and to the nuns who were raped for the political

advancement of Hindutva," said Dr. Aulakh. "If swift action is not taken, it will once again show India's religious intolerance and its terrorism against the minorities under its rule," he said.

The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. More than 50,000 young Sikhs have been abducted by the police, tortured, and killed, then their bodies were declared unidentified and cremated.

"These rapes are of a piece with the repression in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, and throughout the nations occupied by India," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is of a piece with the murders of Catholic priests in Bihar last year. The real aims of India's theocracy are now exposed to the world," he said. "It is clear that there is no place in Indian democracy for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, or any other minorities," Dr. Aulakh added. "As the Sikhs who recently demonstrated at the United Nations noted, a religiously intolerant country cannot be democratic."

Dr. Aulakh called on the United States to maintain its sanctions against India. "The repression of minorities and the nuclearization of South Asia by the Indian government both support India's dreams of empire and its drive for hegemony over all South Asia," he said. He called on India to hold an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan to let the Sikh Nation decide its future in a free and fair vote. He said that the people of Kashmir should have the plebiscite they are seeking as well. "That is the democratic way to do things," Dr. Aulakh said. "If India will not do this, how can it call itself a democracy?"

[From the Burning Punjab News, Oct. 2, 1998]
NUNS' RAPE CASE—MOOPANAR HITS OUT AT VHP

MADRAS.—Tamil Maanila Congress president G K Moopanar has demanded that those involved in the rape of four nuns in Madhya Pradesh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionaries who justified the incident, be detained under the National Security Act. In a statement here, he termed as 'politically uncivilised,' the VHP describing the culprits as 'patriotic youth'. The BJP-led Government at the Centre should nip this tendency in the bud before such criminal act spread to other parts of the country, he added. Referring to the VHP's reported description of the nuns as 'betrayers of the country, Mr. Moopanar said this was unpardonable and went against the Constitution.

[From the Burning Punjab News, Sept. 29, 1998]

MINORITIES COMMISSION CONDEMNS RAPE OF NUNS

NEW DELHI.—India's National Commission for Minorities has strongly condemned the alleged rape of four nuns at Bhandaria village in Jharva district of Madhya Pradesh on September 23. "Such ghastly crimes are a disgrace for the nation and make us hang our heads in shame," said NCM chairman Tahir Mahmood in a press statement. Professor Mahmood added that the NC did receive a complaint by fax in this regard from a prominent all-India Christian organization. "Finding it to be a case of wild abuse of basic human rights and militancy against women's right to modesty, rather than violation of minority rights, I forwarded it with a request for immediate action to the National Human Rights Commission and the National

Commission for Women," Professor Mahmood said. The Madhya Pradesh Government "must move into swift action treating this case as a test for its genuine commitment to protection of humanitarian values and human rights," the NCM chairman said.

[From the Hindustan Times, Oct. 1, 1998]

VHP WANTS FOREIGN MISSIONARIES TO LEAVE

NEW DELHI.—The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) today demanded that foreign missionaries should not be allowed to function in the country since they were acting as insurgent groups in some areas and forcibly converting Hindus in some other parts.

Although senior VHP leader Giriraj Kishore refused to speak on it, he is understood to have raised this issue at a meeting with a Canadian High Commission official today.

But he was open in stating that the VHP would urge the missionaries to go on their own while also creating social awareness on the issue.

Interestingly, Mr. Kishore's remarks came at a Press conference called to disassociate the VHP from the views expressed by another senior VHP leader B.L. Sharma Prem on the Jhabua incident and the "one-side" projection given to it by a prominent daily which, he claimed, sought to put the entire blame for the incident on the VHP. Here, Mr. Kishore pointed out, even the delegation which called on Home Minister L. K. Advani did not blame the VHP.

Mr. Prem had justified the attack on the nuns on the ground that the missionaries represented "antinational forces" working against Hindu interests and that the incident was sparked by the anger of patriotic Hindu youth against them.

Mr. Prem, who had demanded that the Centre throw out those who sought to convert Hindus to Christianity, has reportedly been asked to seek the VHP's sanction before speaking on its behalf. Although Mr. Kishore disassociated the organization from Mr. Prem's remarks, he tried to defend his colleague by maintaining that Mr. Prem may have said what he did because of the track record of the Christian missionaries in tribal areas.

Mr. Kishore's remarks today reflected the VHP's dilemma of exploiting the Jhabua incident to put the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh on the mat and to use it for its own campaign against the missionaries.

Although Mr. Kishore condemned the Jhabua incident and urged the Government to bring the culprits to book at the earliest, he could not restrain himself from demanding that the Christians also condemn any attack on Hindus in Christian-majority areas.

The VHP leader, who charged that a criminal issue involving Christians was being projected as a communal problem in the case of the Jhabua incident, however, virtually dubbed the insurgency problem in the North-East as a Hindu-Christian issue. He described the NSCN (National Socialist Council of Nagaland) as a "Christian and terrorist" outfit and alleged that several cases of attacks on Hindus were reported in Nagaland. To a question whether insurgency in the North-East was based on religion he maintained that members of a particular community were behind it.

While the VHP leader called for the ouster of the foreign missionaries, he defended the activities of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) and other organizations operating abroad. According to Mr. Kishore, these groups did not indulge in forceful conversions.

Mr. Kishore also dismissed reports about attacks on Christians in Gujarat as a "one-sided newspaper propaganda" and went on to

allege that the Muslims were also seeking to marry Gujarai girls as part of a larger design.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
FOUNDATION VETERANS
BRAINTRUST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this year during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation proceedings, I along with my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP, hosted the 10th annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust. For the past 10 years the Braintrust has been the premiere forum for discussion and policy debate between African-American veterans and leaders in government. It is important because so many African-Americans have served, or have family members who served honorably in the U.S. military. Consequently, what happens in terms of veterans' well-being is significantly interrelated to the African-American community as a whole. Congressman RANGEL, Ranking Democratic Member on the Committee on Ways and Means and a decorated Korean War veteran, established the Braintrust 10 years ago, and Congressman BISHOP and I are proud to continue his work and legacy on behalf of African-American veterans. Congressman RANGEL was honored during the proceedings for his work and legacy in this area. Overall, the proceedings were very well received, with a standing room only audience in attendance.

This year's Braintrust entitled "The Future of Veterans Education and Entrepreneurship," gave us a national forum to discuss ways to improve access to education and small business, two key elements essential for success and prosperity in our communities, particularly among veterans. The moderator for the Braintrust, Dr. Reginald Wilson, led a very distinguished panel of experts, government officials, military sociologist, academicians, advocates and veteran business owners including Dr. Joshua Angrist, Mr. Dennis Douglass, Mr. Steven Pappas, Dr. David Segal, Dr. Gantz, Dr. Dorothy Simpson-Taylor, Mr. Duane Jackson, Mr. Ralph Thomas III, Mr. Ramsey Alexander, Mr. Bruce Bolling, and Col. Anita McMiller, USA, Ret. These professionals were selected because of their everyday work with veterans issues and expertise in the veterans affairs and public policy arena. The Braintrust was designed to bring their work, insights, research findings, and historical background to the attention of the general public and leaders in government.

During the Braintrust, Congressman BISHOP reminded African Americans that September 18 marked yet another important day, National MIA/POW Recognition Day. He stated that a number of military bases are located within middle and southern Georgia, and that the new National POW/MIA Museum, dedicated this past spring within Andersonville National Historic Site near Americus, lies within his Congressional district. The MIA/POW issue is indeed an emotional one for him and veterans' families because for them there is never closure, just never ending grief and uncertainty.

Like many of us, Congressman BISHOP said he was committed to doing everything possible to locate each and every American missing in action and to repatriate their remains.

Our keynote speaker was Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Togo D. West, Jr., who eloquently addressed the Braintrust about this being an important opportunity to think about the issues that affect veterans in this country from the African-American perspective. He also said that the Braintrust provides an excellent forum to discuss what we all can bring to challenging issues affecting veterans, and because these issues affect veterans, they affect all of us. In addressing the "Two E's: Education and Entrepreneurship," he asked why are fewer African Americans participating in Montgomery GI Bill benefits than in previous eras? Why was this happening after decades of African Americans pursuing civil rights, better housing, a higher standard of living, and opportunities for themselves and their children, particularly when this benefit is something earned through military service?

Secretary West also stated that entrepreneurship is a key to unlocking opportunity for veterans to be able to participate in the American dream. He indicated that last year, VA addressed the question of minority entrepreneurship, and he said that VA leads all other Federal agencies, in terms of percentages, in making grants to small and disadvantaged business. Secretary West agreed that VA would undertake a new partnership with the Braintrust as a way to digest information and put it to use. Secretary West urged persistence and determination in addressing these pressing issues, saying that for like the "Field of Dreams," if we have the determination, the resources will be found. Secretary West urged participants of the Braintrust to examine all of these issues and questions, and he expressed thanks for the role the Braintrust plays in this discussion.

At the conclusion of Secretary West's speech, Mr. Wayne Smith, President and CEO of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation presented him with the first Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin, legislated by Congress to commemorate Black Patriotism, and the 275th anniversary of the birth of Crispus Attucks, the first African American killed during the American Revolution. Following this very moving moment, Mr. Michael Handy, Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Mr. Morocco Coleman, Assistant Director for the Office of Veterans Programs for the Georgia Department of Labor, presided over a special awards presentation to Mr. Ron Armstead, Executive Coordinator for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust, and Mr. Anthony Hawkins, Associate Director of the Center for Minority Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. These awards were given on behalf of the entire Veterans Braintrust Executive Committee in appreciation of their outstanding leadership, commitment, and service to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus, and other Members of Congress over the past 10 years.

Other 10th anniversary awards were presented to 30 exemplary veterans for their national and equally important community service: Dr. Doris "Lucki" Allen, Dr. Irving Allen, M.D.; Mr. Ramsey Alexander, Jr.; Mr. Kent Amos; Mr. Charles Ballard; Mr. Lafayette

Barnes; Dr. Anne Bell, M.D.; Mr. Bruce Bolling; Col. Mary Boyd; Dr. Howard Brabson; Ms. Thelma Branch, USNA; Ms. Sheila Chamberlain; Brig. Gen. Robert Cocroft, USAR; Ms. Nora Dunn, RN; Mr. Calvin Gross; Mr. Roger "Kevvy" Harris; Mr. Duane Jackson; Ms. Dorothy Johnson; Mr. John Johnson; Mrs. Norma King-Joiner; Mr. Alvin Jones; Mr. William Leftwich, III; Mr. Leonard Long; Dr. Shirley Marks, M.D., M.P.H.; Col. Anita McMiller, USA, Ret.; Mr. Michael Neely; Col. Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr., USA, Ret.; Mr. Harold Raymond; Ms. Lizette Rhones; Mr. Michael Robbins; Lt. Col. Jordan Simmons, III, USA, Ret.; Mr. William Sims; Mr. Peters Spears; Mr. Ralph Thomas III; Mr. Charles Tompkins; Assemblyman Darryl Towns; Mr. Larry Williams; Mr. Carmen Wilson II; Dr. Reginald Wilson; Mr. Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, USAF, Ret. (Posthumous); Black Patriots Foundation; Troops to Teachers Program, Department of Defense, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support; and the Veterans Education Project.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust activities closed with a tenth anniversary reception co-hosted by the Black Patriots Foundation, the Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc., the Gatehouse Group, Inc. and Amistad Associates. More than 100 veterans, family members and friends gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the past 10 years and to renew old friendships. Veterans will always hold a very special place in my heart and I look forward to working together with African American veterans representatives and advocates in order to present a strong national voice for veterans. I thank Dr. Elizabeth Allen, Mr. Arthur Barham, Mr. Harold "Lightbulb" Bryant, Mr. Ralph Cooper, Mr. Morocco Coleman, Mr. Michael Handy, Mr. Thomas Harris, Ms. Lane Knox, Mr. Reginald Lawrence, Mr. Job Mashariki, Dr. Erwin Parson, Mr. Clyde Poag, Mr. Wayne Smith, Ms. Arlene Williams, Ms. Joann Williams, Dr. James Woodard, Mr. Arthur Wright, and Mr. Thomas Wynn, Sr. for their commitment, dedication, and perseverance. I also want to thank the Congressional staff members Mr. Nick Martinelli, Ms. Brittlely Wise, volunteer Mr. Ron Armstead, Rev. Rosita Mathews, and forum evaluators Dr. Brenda Moore, Dr. Brenda "BJ" Jarmon, Dr. Lorraine Blackman, and Dr. Phillip Schervish, for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SIDNEY P. YATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today in recognition of the distinguished career of my colleague and friend Congressman SIDNEY YATES. His service to his district and commitment to the amelioration of the lives of his constituents has long been a source of admiration for me.

YATES' 48 years as a United States Congressman has been a gift to the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois and the nation on a whole. He is responsible for channeling billions of dollars into various local projects ranging from the Chicago Deep Tunnel project to the Chicago Shoreline project. Additionally,

YATES served as the House's chief defender of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. During the Bush years, when the NEA was under attack and politically unpopular, he insightfully recognized the institution's importance and successfully fought for its preservation for future generations of artists and art enthusiasts.

The assiduous and tireless efforts of SID YATES have never gone unnoticed by his constituents. Every two years, his general election percentages have consistently been robust and resilient.

So, today, I salute "Chicago's statesman." YATES' lifetime of service is a standard of excellent that I would encourage all of my colleagues to emulate.

DR. CARL M. KUTTLE HONORED
AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
COLLEGE PRESIDENT OF THE
YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to inform my colleagues that Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, Jr., President of the St. Petersburg Junior College, has just been named the outstanding community college president of the year by the National Association of Community College Trustees.

Having the privilege to represent the St. Petersburg Junior College, I know of the great work that Dr. Kuttler has done these past 20 years as President to make it one of the premiere colleges in our nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the college ranks third in the Nation in the number of Liberal Arts and Science degrees conferred, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Health Professions and Related Sciences, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Nursing, and fourth in the total number of associate degrees awarded.

Dr. Kuttler has devoted his life to the growth of the St. Petersburg Junior College, having served in various capacities for 32 years. He was first a student at the college beginning in 1958 and in his second year was elected president of the student government, so he understands the needs of the students and faculty from various perspectives.

In addition to raising the academic level of excellence at the college, Dr. Kuttler has also established a number of unique programs that respond to the needs of our State and our community. In 1998, he negotiated a special agreement under which the Allstate Insurance Company agreed to donate to the college land and facilities valued at \$11.2 million. With this gift in place, Dr. Kuttler and the college have secured Federal and State grants totaling more than \$30 million to establish a state of the art Southeastern Public Safety Institute, which provides training to Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and emergency response personnel.

Under his leadership, the college also responded to an unmet need for trained health care professionals by raising \$3.4 million in gifts, and \$6.5 million in State funds, to establish one of our Nation's finest allied health

education centers at the St. Petersburg Junior College's Caruth Health Education Center.

Pamela Jo Davis, the Chairman of the college's Board of Trustees who nominated Dr. Kuttler for this award, said, "He personifies the 21st Century president, demonstrating all the global vision and community caring that balanced, successful leaders must have."

In presenting the association's most prestigious award to Dr. Kuttler, Ray Taylor, the President of the Association of Community College Trustees, said, "I only wish all of the Nation's 1,100 community colleges had somebody as outstanding as Dr. Kuttler."

Mr. Speaker, speaking for the people of the 10th Congressional District I represent, I can say that we are proud and fortunate to have an educational leader who is as committed to his students, faculty, and staff as Carl Kuttler. It is a most fitting honor that his peers across the country have recognized him with such a great honor this month.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to Judge Sonia Sotomayor, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service. She was confirmed today by the Senate for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Clinton nominated Sotomayor in June 1997 and after an arduous process, the Senate ratified her nomination by voting 68-28. The 2nd Circuit Court includes New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

Judge Sotomayor was born and raised in the South Bronx. After graduating summa cum laude from Princeton University, she earned her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. I have known her personally for many years, and I am very familiar with her background, experience, character, and personality. She is a person of the highest personal and professional integrity.

Mr. Speaker, since her appointment to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George Bush in 1992, Judge Sotomayor has distinguished herself and has received continuous recognition for her outstanding performance. During her tenure, she has been reversed only six times in what is considered perhaps the most litigious and scrutinized district court in the United States.

Being the first Hispanic woman to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Sotomayor is well known and highly respected by her peers and the different communities for her sensitivity, professionalism, integrity and sound judgment. Her confirmation brings to the Court an outstanding judge at the same time that it expands its ethnic composition.

This is the kind of issue that should be discussed in the classrooms. She is a role model for all Hispanics. Judge Sotomayor has set an example of how success is available for all of those who persevere to achieve their goals. She is an inspiration for many Puerto Ricans and for the people in the Bronx who are trying to break the cycle of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Sonia Sotomayor for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her continued success as Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

THANKING THE HEROES OF THE STORM OF '98

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this past Labor Day my home district endured one of the most furious storms ever to assault Central New York. A violent line of thunderstorms, which the National Weather Service calls a "derecho," began their attack just after one o'clock in the morning. With swirling winds surpassing one hundred miles an hour, Mother Nature unleashed her wrath—ripping roofs off buildings, smashing trees against houses, snapping telephone poles and leaving a path of desolate neighborhoods and a fractured infrastructure.

As the gusts finally deteriorated into breezes and the rain subsided, the members of the Central New York community showed their true spirit. People helped one another remove the debris from their yards and newspapers were full of stories about neighborhood heroes. But there is a group of "professional" heroes, too—the utility workers, telephone linemen, postal workers, the National Guard, fire fighters, local police and state, county, city and town public works crews. Not to mention the "official" heroes, those elected representatives of the people who did their jobs with the energy and skill we always expect. Emergency workers from all municipalities and members of the New York Air and Army National Guard emerged to aid those in need. New York Governor George Pataki, Onondaga County Executive Nicholas Pirro and Syracuse Mayor Roy Bernardi took immediate action to guarantee a rapid recovery for all affected. Working in conjunction with utility company crews on loan from all over New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maine, New Jersey and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the members of local fire and police departments, emergency and medical personnel and employees of local telephone and cable companies as well as the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation toiled for countless hours to restore power and phone service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my office's role in working with Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Witt to mitigate the aftershock of this disaster. Indeed we were on the phone within eight hours of the end of the storm and FEMA responded quickly and professionally. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending those who contributed their sweat, tears and labor to the recovery effort in Central New York during this time of crisis.

POLKA POWER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose musical talents

have brought much joy and laughter to all who know him, Mr. Roger Balcer. On Sunday, October 4, Roger Balcer will be inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

Born in 1940, the oldest son of Barney and Henrietta Balcer, music was in young Roger's blood. Following in the footsteps of his uncle Leo Balcer, Roger too wanted to become a celebrated accordion player. He began to develop his skills early on, beginning accordion lessons at age eight. Even at this young age, everyone realized Roger had a talent. He took this talent and formed a band with his high school friends, Jerry Kolsowski, Fred Lenisz, and Tom Reder. In their first engagement, these four charmed the crowd at the Polish Falcon's Club of Saginaw.

However, Roger did not stop here. Along with playing in the band, Roger began singing with Choir Chopin under the directorship of Polish National Alliance Conductor Ted Nedzielski. Being a member of the acclaimed Choir Chopin gave Roger the opportunity to share his music with audiences in cities around the country.

As Roger grew older, his musical career continued to blossom. An electrician by day, Roger was a musician by night. He became a member of the Ray Massicotte Orchestra, playing at the "Shamrock" four nights a week. He soon began playing weekend engagements at the Washington Club. Roger also played Mexican Polkas at the Savoy in Saginaw as a member of Mike Luna's Band. Roger recorded albums with Tom Reder and John Lipinski that were played on Otto Hubner's Polka Program. He spent sixteen years as a member of the Kings Four Group playing at various country clubs around Michigan. After taking a few years away from his music, Roger became a favorite entertainer of the Seniors at the State Hospital in Caro.

In 1984, Roger and his uncle Leo became representatives for the Iorio computerized accordion. He traveled to countless polka festivals demonstrating this instrument and expanding his exposure to many types of music. Today, Roger still performs at numerous functions playing music ranging from Jazz to Irish folk music. However, his first love is still polkas. Roger also spends time with his charming wife, Mary Ann and his four sons, Matthew, Steven, Mark and Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Balcer has dedicated his life to bringing music and joy to others. I ask you and our colleagues to roll out a barrel of applause and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Roger Balcer as he is inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act of 1998." It is a cruel fact that America's senior citizens are the subject of widespread price discrimination. While the federal government and large HMOs pay little, our seniors pay twice as much for their prescription drugs.

This price discrimination has a devastating effect on older Americans. For those on a fixed income, it is certainly not easy to meet all of their financial obligations. These high prices have forced many of our senior citizens to choose between buying food or paying for the medications they desperately need. This is a choice which I and every American should view as unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, a recent Congressional study showed that our senior citizens pay on average 106% higher than those paid by "preferred customers." Ticlid, a drug prescribed for stroke victims, cost seniors two and a half times more than it does drug companies'

most-favored customers. Mr. Speaker, this form of discrimination must end.

The Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act will protect senior citizens from drug price discrimination and make prescription drugs available to Medicare beneficiaries at substantially reduced prices. This legislation will effectively reduce drug prices for seniors by over 40%.

The key provision of this bill will provide Medicare beneficiaries with a drug benefit card. This card will allow our seniors to purchase prescription drugs at significantly reduced prices. This bill will allow pharmacies to purchase drugs for Medicare beneficiaries at lower prices. Pharmacies that enter into agreements with the Department of Health

and Human Services will be able to purchase prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries at the same low prices available to federal agencies under the Federal Supply Schedule. This bill provides the framework for further reductions in prices by requiring Congressional oversight of the effectiveness of the legislation. This will ensure that Congress will continue to work for the health of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, our seniors should not have to choose between food and the prescription drugs they need. No member of this body has to make that choice and our seniors should not either. I urge the members of this body to support our seniors by voting for the Prescription Drug Fairness Act